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Heavy snowfall hits Homewood Campus



COURTESY OF DILLON BROUT

Hopkins was again blanketed with several inches of snow on Tuesday night, causing a two-hour delay for Wednesday classes.

Three Hopkins students arrested

After refusing to pay for taxi ride, one assaults police officer

By LAURA MUTH
News & Features Editor

Three Hopkins students were arrested for theft of services after not paying for a taxi ride, and one could face additional charges of assaulting a police officer.

Detective Donny Moses of the Baltimore Police Public Affairs Department confirmed that the students involved were sophomore Christina Friedman, freshman Phillips Mitchell and sophomore Alex Grabowski.

Grabowski and Friedman both declined to comment. Mitchell could not be reached before press time.

On Jan. 24, the students allegedly left a taxi without paying their fare. According to Moses, a member of Hopkins security was speaking with the cab driver involved when the arresting Baltimore police officer arrived at the scene.

The cab driver identified one of the girls as she was emerging from an apartment building on the 3000 block of St. Paul Street.

"The officer went to place her under arrest, at which point she

hit him in the head with the heel of her shoe," Moses said.

He added that officers reported the student was "very intoxicated."

According to a student familiar with the situation, Friedman was the one who hit the officer with her shoe.

"Hiding under the stairs in the apartment building were the other two girls... trying to avoid the police," Moses said.

All three students were eventually arrested. Moses could not confirm how long the girls were detained and Baltimore Central Booking was unavailable for comment before press time.

Hopkins' Director of Community Affairs Salem Reiner had heard about the incident but also did not know whether charges were being pressed at

SEE ARREST, PAGE A4

City rules Pontolillo will not be charged

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

The State's Attorney Office announced last Thursday that it will not be pressing charges against Hopkins senior John Pontolillo for his use of a samurai sword to fatally wound an intruder on his property.

After a careful review of the evidence and an autopsy of intruder Donald Rice, it was determined that Pontolillo killed in self defense.

"John Pontolillo reasonably believed he was in danger of imminent death or serious bodily injury and was justified in striking Donald Rice," State Attorney Patricia Jessamy wrote in a press release.

In September, Pontolillo used a samurai sword against Rice while he was in the process of robbing his house. Rice was a repeat offender who had been convicted of multiple instances of breaking and entering.

"We appreciate the very careful

SEE SAMURAI, PAGE A6

Kristof talks human rights at FAS speech

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

When *The New York Times* journalist Nicholas Kristof first travelled to Egypt, one of the first conversations he had resulted in his accidentally cursing out a local.

"But that is the aim of travels,"

Kristof said. "To be utterly confused and bewildered."

Kristof is full of stories of adventures, dangers and humor in exotic lands, but his main reason for speaking at FAS this Tuesday was to advocate for women's rights in some of the impoverished nations he has travelled

through during his extensive journalism career.

Many of Kristof's articles in *The Times* have chronicled the plights of and advocated for people living in impoverished areas such as the Congo and Cambodia, and as he stated, the struggle of

SEE KRISTOF, PAGE A6

City begins to circulate eco-friendly bus system

By PHYLLIS ZHU
For *The News-Letter*

An orange, green and purple sign and a forgotten cup of coffee mark the Convention Center stop of the City's new free shuttle system, the long-awaited Charm City Circulator, which began running last month.

Now, in addition to the MTA buses, the Light Rail and the MARC train, Baltimore has an eco-friendly and quieter form of public transportation.

As part of former Mayor Sheila Dixon's plan for a "cleaner, greener Baltimore," the new bus system strives to provide free public transportation while remaining sustainable. The City purchased 21 diesel-electric hybrid buses, which alternate between using

SEE CIRCULATOR, PAGE A8

Black History Month kicked off at Hopkins

By PETER SICHER
News & Features Editor

For Amanda Holder, black is more than just a box she checks to describe her ethnicity.

"We want to educate people that 'black' is a culture, one that is developed from a mix of several other cultures. 'Black' is a history filled with struggle, accomplishment, revolution and hope for the future," Holder said.

With that in mind, Holder and Co-Chair Rachel Tolbert decided that "Black is More Than a Color" would be the perfect theme for this year's Black History Month programs.

Sponsored by the Black Student Union (BSU), the series of events kicked off on Friday with a commencement speech by Interfaith Center Chaplain Albert Mosley in the Glass Pavilion.

"For a great portion of our society and a great portion of the world, black is not more than a color," Mosley said.

He pointed out how President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address spurred MSNBC anchor Chris Matthews to say he



EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Nick Brady discusses racial stereotypes during a Black History Month event.

"forgot [Obama] was black."

Matthews "basically suggested that if he remembered Obama's blackness, that would have been a barrier to seeing him as a competent or able leader," Mosley said.

"For me black is a story, and it's a story of resilience, a story of survival, a story of greatness, a story of heartache and pain, a

story of trials and triumphs," he added.

In his closing, Mosley reminded his listeners of the importance of Black History Month.

"Very often, one side of history is never told. This is particularly true in the American educational system. There's a

SEE BHM, PAGE A4



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A new development would provide more retail shopping and hundreds of jobs.

South Charles Village project to commercialize area

By KENSING NG
Staff Writer

As 2009 drew to a close, plans were drawn up to renew the area between Howard and 25th Street in Baltimore.

Currently home to the Anderson Automotive dealership, the area has long been in need of a renovation. After the restructuring of General Motors led to the shuttering of the dealership, community leaders saw an opportunity to create new jobs and businesses in the area.

"The shuttering of the dealership offers an opportunity to rethink the area and potentially create an anchor for commercial activity along 25th Street," Tom Stosur, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Planning, said.

Walker Developments Inc. plans to spearhead the \$65 million project to construct busi-

nesses in the area, including a brand new Lowe's home improvement store. The project is estimated to generate 400 jobs during construction and 800 full and part-time retail jobs after its completion.

"Some of the proposed retail uses exist nowhere else in central Baltimore and could help capture spending that is currently going outside the city," Stosur said. "Certainly, it will provide jobs as well as shopping opportunities to Baltimore residents."

In addition, the project includes the construction of 60 new apartments in the area.

The project is currently being reviewed by several different committees. The Charles Village Civic Association Land Use Committee has been attending several meetings held by the developer and has been collecting feedback from local residents and businesses.

The committee has also been

SEE EXPANSION, PAGE A3

It will provide jobs as well as shopping opportunities to Baltimore residents.

—TOM STOSUR, PLANNING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARTS

•Witness explores the surreal world and the real world in Doug Ross's *Matriculated*, Page B3.



SCIENCE

•Get the scoop on Apple's newest product, the iPad, which debuted this past week. Page B7.



THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Editorials A10
Opinions A11
Your Weekend B2
Arts B3
Cartoons B6
Science B7
Sports B12

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NEWS & FEATURES

Local area mildly hurt by recession

By PETER SICHER
News & Features Editor

Like most communities throughout the U.S., Charles Village has been negatively affected by the economic recession that began in the fall of 2008.

Due to the large number of middle class residents and its proximity to Hopkins, however, the effects of the recession in Charles Village have not been as serious as those suffered by other communities in Baltimore and the rest of the country.

"Charles Village most definitely has been negatively impacted by economic conditions," Director of Community Affairs Salem Reiner wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. The area has seen increased unemployment and little income growth.

Reiner called the continued lack of construction at the vacant Olmstead lot a "loss of opportunity" that also hurt the area.

According to Hopkins spokesperson Dennis O'Shea, the university's plans to construct housing, retail and university offices at the lot have also been delayed due to the recession.

Despite these setbacks, Reiner felt that Charles Village has not been hit as hard as other communities.

One factor he believed helped the community was "its robust presence of middle income persons, [which] provides a solid economic foundation, versus lower income areas."

Reiner also believes that Charles Village is helped by the fact that it is "a stable neighborhood, with high levels of owner-occupied homes and a civically engaged population."

Jerry Gordon, the owner of Eddie's Market also believes that the neighborhood has fared better than most.

"Many of the residents are employed either in government, education or other fields that are

not as deeply affected by the recession," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"That is not to naively say that there has been no effect. Housing values which were irrationally inflated have dropped drastically. However, I don't think that there have been a lot of foreclosures in this neighborhood. Residents here as well as most other places have to carefully watch how they spend their money. Business people such as myself have to stay on top of their busi-

nesses and be careful to limit waste and give customers value for their loyalty."

Gordon admitted that Eddie's has been hurt by the economic climate.

"We have seen a significant cut back in catering," he wrote. "JHU has cut back budgets in departments which has affected us. For example, one department had a standing order for bagels and muffins for years on Monday mornings and just last month it was cancelled."

Randy Shayotovich, the co-owner of Cloud 9 Clothing, said this his company had been slightly hurt by the recession as well.

"The last year and a half the sales have definitely been down," he said.

Shayotovich believed, however, that the economy is on the road to recovery.

"Overall we're matching last

year's numbers now, so the worst is over. We're going to make a slow steady comeback. And in general not just us but the whole industry," he said.

Reiner, Gordon and Shayotovich all agreed that Hopkins has a positive effect on the local economy.

"We definitely do business with all the students and we notice a dip in sales during the summer when students are gone. We benefit from the students being here. We have a good chunk of business from them," Shayotovich said.

"It is unlikely our store with our limited size could exist without the friendly customers and administrative business from JHU," Gordon wrote.

However, most students interviewed said that they have cut back their spending in Charles Village due to the economy.

"I usually try and eat in. The only things I really buy are my lattes [from Starbucks]," junior Nicole Peetfish said.

"My family is kind of cautious because of the recession. My brother is in college too. So maybe if I had more spending money, I might have gone

there to check it out," freshman Kieran Coleman said.

Junior Danielle Dorfman said that due to the recession, "I go grocery shopping more than I eat at the restaurants here."

"I was more prone to frequent Starbucks or Cold Stone [Creamery] in the past. Recently I have been trying to use my meal plan more and not spend outside of that," sophomore Claire Snodgrass said.

One student said the recession had not affected his spending however.

"Most of the stuff I buy is food or groceries, so it's kind of a necessity," junior Andrew Wisneski said.

Reiner felt that the area is positioned for economic recovery. He attributed this belief in part to the opening of two new restaurants and a Verizon store in the area.

"What are positive indicators is that the Verizon store, as well as Maxie's and Lido, are opening, that very few retail establishments have closed, that there are almost no retail vacancies, and only a limited number of homes for sale, very few foreclosure sale signs on homes, no abandoned nor highly deteriorated properties proximate to Homewood, and homes are being purchased and apartments are being rented," he wrote.

Gordon was less optimistic. "I think that any improvement is marginal and tenuous at best. There are many people and governments overextended beyond the ability to recover quickly. The proposed federal budget with the huge deficit is a concern for now and future generations," he said.

Rebecca LaFleur, general manager of Barnes and Noble at Hopkins declined to comment.



FILE PHOTO

Charles Village has felt the impact of the national recession.



FILE PHOTO

Charles Village has not been hit as hard as other places in the country.



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Most classes were surprisingly unaffected by the outbreak of H1N1 that swept campus during the fall semester.

H1N1 has little effect on class attendance

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

Although rates of swine flu infection around the country have been waning, the Health and Wellness Center is still encouraging students to get vaccinated, as well as stay isolated if they are sick.

"We're still asking them to isolate themselves, still asking them to come into the health center so we can assess them. H1N1 activity has really dropped dramatically across the country, so I don't know whether people are getting complacent or they're

just sick of hearing about swine flu, but they're really tuning things out at this point. Hopefully we can still motivate people to take the appropriate precautions," Health and Wellness Center Director Alain Joffe said.

Even at swine flu's peak in November of last semester, Joffe said that few classes seemed disrupted by the epidemic.

"Certainly at all the Dean's meetings I've went to over the first semester, I didn't get the impression from anyone that the quality of academics for students suffered in any way," Joffe said.

Professors generally agreed. General Biology lecturer Richard Shingles said that though he did notice some absences, it wasn't significant and did not effect lecture plans.

"The absences didn't really matter, because the students were only out for maybe two or three days, so it made it easy for them to catch up," Shingles said.

In addition, despite the fact that he said he did suspect some students did abuse the policy, he didn't think that students in his class did.

"There's no way to prove it, we're not going to run around doing bed checks. Students were on the honor policy, and I would hope they didn't abuse this, but I don't think they did. I didn't see an increase in absences around exam time or anything like that," he said.

For Leonardo Lisi, who taught Henry James and the Art of the Novel, a 14-person seminar last semester, said that

he didn't note any impact in his class attendance at all.

"I had a couple of students that said they were not coming to class because of fear of swine flu, but it didn't result in larger absences in that semester than usual," Lisi said.

Other students and classes however, were not so lucky. John Astin's Contemporary Theater and Film class was hit with an outbreak of swine flu mid-semester and had to delay some of their productions.

"There was a delay in a lot of things, and we had to put things off. We actually had to cancel a

couple shows that we were putting on because so many people in the class got swine flu at the same time," freshman Janice Duncan said.

Nonetheless, the class was able to get through everything the professor had planned, although things were a bit

more rushed.

"We didn't get a lot less done, we just had to do a lot more at the same time. We had lost an entire week, so the following week we had to do both the things from last week and also the things planned for that week."

In addition, some students thought that while professors were fairly understanding after they were instructed by the Health Center, they were a little less lenient before.

Junior Andrew Yip had swine flu in September, before the epidemic broke out, and before professors were more flexible with deadline extensions.

"I had it in September, and I had to finish my homework while I was sick, and then photocopy it and scan it onto the computer and send it to my professors. It wasn't a huge deal with professors yet. Towards the height of everyone getting swine flu, it seemed like people were given more leeway with extensions," Yip said.

Yip also said that he is sure that people abused the swine flu policies that professors had.

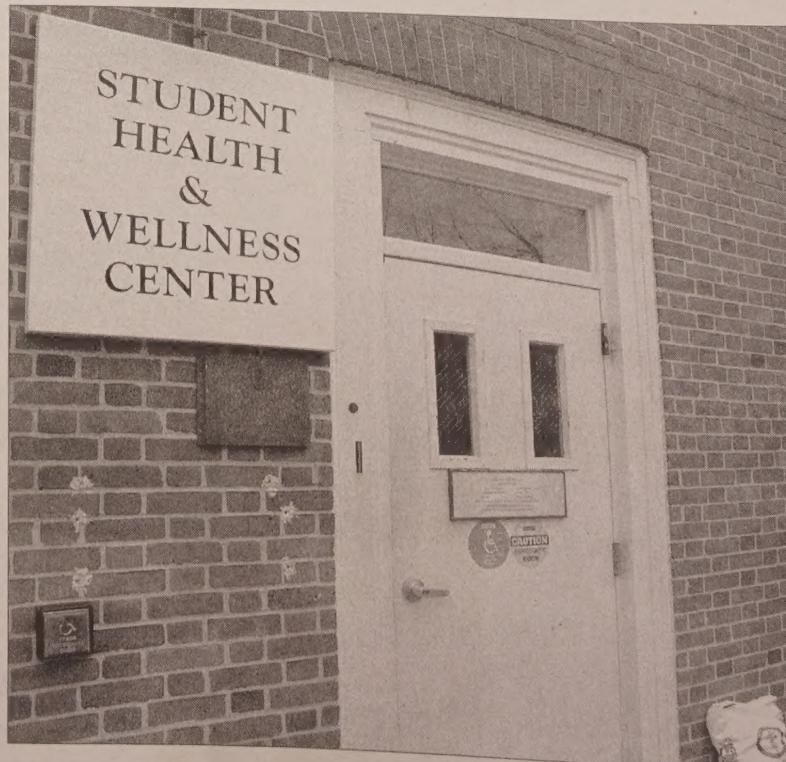
"I'm pretty confident that two students in one of my classes were faking it. They definitely forgot about our first midterm and they told my professor that they had swine flu. I just thought it was really improbable that two students had swine flu at the exact same time and the exact same day. I don't want to be accusatory, but I found it very funny that they both missed the test on the same day for the same reason," Yip said.

Nonetheless, Joffe feels that the Health Center's policy of urging professors to be understanding of absences caused by swine flu was successful, and he hopes it will continue this semester, despite the decline.

"My sense is that the policy worked pretty well. We did provide notes for midterms and finals, because the stakes are always higher there, but we did not provide routine notes," Joffe said.

"My sense is that students did not encounter any problems missing class and having professors challenge them on why they were absent, and I hope this policy will continue now."

According to the Health and Wellness Center, there have been about 410 diagnosed swine flu cases at Hopkins to date since September, and since the start of the semester in January, they have diagnosed six cases.



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Despite waning rates of H1N1 students are still advised to get vaccinated at Health and Wellness.

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NEWS & FEATURES

SECURITY ALERTS

Ames Hall (Room 317)

Between 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 and 2:20 p.m. on Jan. 23:

A graduate student reported that a bracelet she had left in an unlocked drawer was missing when she returned to her office. Numerous staff, faculty, students and custodians had keys which granted access to the room. Investigation continuing.

Garland Hall (Room 385)

Between 4:30 p.m. on January 22 and 9:00 a.m. on Jan. 25:

a staff member reported the theft of his iPod from his desk area. Investigation continuing.

Charles Commons

A Hopkins student reported that he accidentally left his wallet in the mail room. When the student returned, the wallet, which contained his J-Card, cash and miscellaneous cards was missing. The J-Card was later used to access a washing machine in the building. Investigation continuing.

Latrobe Hall (3rd floor)

Between 1:00 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. on Jan. 28:

A graduate student's laptop was stolen from an unoccupied room while the owner was in the third floor break room. Investigation continuing.

Athletic Center (Baseball Locker Room)

Between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Jan. 28:

Cash was taken from a senior's wallet, which had been left unattended in an unlocked locker. Investigation continuing.

Hodson Hall Bike Rack

Between 2:45 p.m. and 5:28 p.m. Jan. 28:

A senior's bike was taken from the bike rack. The chain securing the bike to the rack had been cut. Investigation continuing.

Krieger Hall (Room 419)

Between 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 28:

A glass door was broken, allowing a person to gain entry to the room. Other than the glass there was no damage to the door or the door frame. A steel door leading to the area of this room had been propped open. Nothing was reported taken. Facilities management notified. Custodian responded.

3501 St. Paul Street

Between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Jan. 26

A burglary occurred at an apartment owned by a Hopkins graduate and students. The room was entered thru an unlocked first floor bedroom window. A laptop and external hard drive were taken from a desk. A laptop was removed from a chair in another bedroom.

When the burglary occurred one resident was in her bedroom but heard nothing. It is unknown whether the apartment was exited through the entrance or the first floor window. Investigation continuing.

3211 North Charles Street

Between 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 p.m. on Jan. 27:

a junior reported that the left front tire of his vehicle had been punctured and the left front fender and driver's door had been scratched.

Investigation continuing.

Unit Blk. Art Museum Drive

Between 12:40 p.m. and 2:55 p.m. on Jan. 27:

A vehicle's right front window was broken into and the backpack of a senior containing his laptop and iPod was stolen. Baltimore Police responded. Investigation continuing.

Mattin Center

Between 6:00 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. on Jan. 19:

A non affiliate left her purse in the hallway outside room 161. An unknown person removed a wallet containing cash, credit cards and a driver's license. The building was open to the public at the time. All credit cards were cancelled but before their cancellation there was some activity on them. Investigation continuing.

3200 Blk. Guildford Ave.

Between 2:15 p.m. and 10:34 p.m. on Jan. 20:

Two graduate students who were house sitting discovered that the apartment had been ransacked when they returned from work. The second floor windows which connect to the fire escape in the rear bedroom were open. A flat screen TV and desktop computer were missing. Baltimore Police and campus security officers responded. Investigation continuing.

300 Blk. East 33rd St.

At 10:42 p.m. on Jan. 23:

An Allied Barton vehicle stopped a gunpoint robbery attempt on three sophomores. When the vehicle was seen approaching the two robbers fled on foot in different direction. Campus officers detained one suspect and the other was apprehended by Baltimore Police. Both were positively identified and arrested. The handgun was not found. Investigation continuing.

2900 Blk. of St. Paul St.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 8:15 p.m. on Jan. 22:

a laptop, iPod, purse, wallet, camera and two GPS devices were taken from two bedrooms in a graduate students' residence. Entry was gained through an open second-floor bathroom window adjacent to a fire escape. Exit was made through a rear door leading to a second-story porch. Baltimore Police responded. Investigation continuing.

300 blk. of E. University Parkway

At 6:29 p.m. on Jan. 22:

An undergraduate student heard a noise and then noticed an unknown man standing on a rear second-floor porch. When the suspect realized he was being observed he pulled himself onto the roof and fled in an unknown direction. Baltimore Police and campus officers responded but did not find anyone.

A Message From Security

On Feb. 9, 2010 Homewood Campus Safety and Security will conduct a test of the campus siren/public address system and the Hopkins Emergency Alerts text messaging system at 1 p.m. The test will be a full-scale activation of both systems. The sirens/PA system is composed of speakers on Garland Hall, Whitehead Hall and the O'Connor Recreation Center. The sirens will simultaneously sound the alert tone and broadcast the message announcing, "This is a test of the Homewood Campus emergency warning system." Those who have subscribed to the text message alert system will receive a text message reading "This is a test of the Johns Hopkins Homewood Emergency Alert text message system. There is NO emergency at this time." After the test an all clear alert tone will sound followed by a message saying in part, "This has been a test of the Homewood campus emergency warning system. Had there been an actual emergency you would have been given specific instructions on what to do." Only three tests are conducted a year. Except for these periodic tests, the system will be used only in the event of an incident or situation that present a significant threat to the lives of safety of the campus community.

Tabb appointed to Library Board

By ERICH REIMER
For The News-Letter

Winston Tabb, the Dean of University Libraries and Museums for Hopkins, was recently nominated by President Obama to the National Museum and Library Services Board.

"I feel very honored to have been chosen and feel that it is an honor for JHU as well, especially our libraries and museums," Tabb said.

According to a University press release on Jan. 21, "The National Museum and Library Services Board is the advisory body for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute works to create strong libraries and museums through programming at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations. Board members are presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed members of the general public who have demonstrated expertise in, or commitment to, library or museum services."

Tabb said that his position on the board will not cause him to step down from his position at Hopkins.

"The National Museum and Library Services Advisory Board meets several times each year. One function is to advise the IMLS [Institute of Museum and Library Services] director about issues confronting American libraries and museums that IMLS may be able to help explore, promote and/or resolve . . . This is a nomination for an advisory board . . . I am not leaving JHU."

He explained that the nomination took him by surprise.

"I did not seek the nomination, and was surprised and pleased when I was asked if I would be willing to serve if nominated and confirmed. I have had considerable experience in dealing with IMLS, dating from my years as the Associate Librarian of Congress. And I have served in the past on several grant review committees. I believe that one qualification of special relevance to this board is the fact that I serve at JHU as dean both of the libraries and museums, not a common role for library deans at peer institutions," he said.

Tabb was appointed as Dean of Libraries in Sept. 2002.

"As dean of libraries at Johns Hopkins, Tabb directs the integration of new information technologies throughout the university's libraries and, as head of the University Libraries Council, leads and coordinates Johns Hopkins' entire system of libraries . . . He is also director of the Sheridan Libraries," the University press release said.

When the staff of the Sheridan Libraries were asked about how they felt of Tabb as a leader and co-worker, the response was overwhelmingly positive.

"I believe Dean Tabb is an extremely effective leader, especially in building collaborative relationships across the Hopkins Libraries. Building the relationship with the other Hopkins libraries has been key for us to

develop shared resources across the institution," said Elizabeth Mengel, the Head of Collection Management for the Sheridan Libraries and Hopkins Museums.

"Dean Tabb has been a tremendous advocate for the libraries and the museums at JHU in his time here, and I know of few peer institutions where the work of the faculty and students is so deeply integrated into the spaces and resources of the library and the university's other cultural institutions," Sheridan Libraries' Curator of Rare Books Earle Havens said.

"Libraries are not always a primary destination for work and student life at other of our great universities in this country, but it clearly is that and more on the Homewood campus, and Dean Tabb has clearly a great deal to do with that as well."

"By integrating the libraries and museums and by promoting the use of rare books, manuscripts and objects in classes



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK:
Winston Tabb, on the left, was recently appointed by President Obama to the National Museum and Library Services Board.

and exhibitions, he is encouraging us to make primary sources a key part of the Hopkins learning experience — a move that many library leaders recognize as an essential area of growth for academic libraries," said Garbielle Dean, Sheridan Libraries' Curator of Modern Literary Rare Books and Manuscripts.

The nomination of Tabb has not been confirmed yet and is currently pending in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Brian Shields, the Sheridan Libraries' Communications and Marketing Manager, said "we are very excited by this honor."



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The new development will take place where an Anderson car dealership used to be.

New development planned in South Charles Village

Panel formed to study local area relationships

EXPANSION FROM A1
working with the Councilwoman Belinda Conaway and the Land Use Committees of the Greater Remington Improvement Association and the Old Goucher Community Association to help coordinate communication between the developer, the community and legislators.

An Urban Design and Architectural Review Panel has also been formed by the city to study matters such as the relationship between the development and the local area, as well as the ability of the development to accom-

modate pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The developer is expected to come out with a second draft of development plans soon.

Representatives from both local community organizations the Charles Village Civic Association and the Remington Neighborhood Alliance could not be reached for comment.

Jon Laria, a lawyer working with the developers could also not be reached for comment, nor could the architectural firm designing the development, Kann Partners.

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Black History Month sparks discussion

BHM FROM A1

fairly high probability that the history most of us received . . . was the history that only told the white side of this nation's story," he said. Mosley urged the audience to work to correct this.

"We have to know the story, tell the story and live the story. It is left up to us to learn it and to know it," he said.

After Mosley gave his remarks the audience spent the rest of the event playing Black History Jeopardy, which covered history, renaissance, achievement and revolution.

Many at the event felt it was a success and stressed the importance of Black History Month.

"Without understanding the history of one group you can't understand the history of the country as a whole," sophomore Gena Upshaw said.

"It was really good. They did a great job with a great theme," junior James Finklea said.

Holder was enthusiastic about the success of the opening ceremony.

"I'm glad that so many people actually came to participate. The space looked great and everyone had a great time from start to finish," she said.

On Tuesday members of the BSU gathered in the Multicultural Affairs Student Center for a discussion on "Stereotypical Analysis in the Black Community."

The discussion covered topics ranging from the portrayal of blacks in the mainstream media, to Ebonics, to whether it was acceptable for someone with a traditionally black name to change it to avoid racial profiling.

On the first topic, many felt that in the media, white is considered the default.

"I think people in general see anything that isn't racialized as automatically white," one person said.

Junior Nick Brady agreed.

"When a white person does something it is not seen as representing the white race," he said.

"But for black people, because



EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachel Tolbert and Amanda Holder moderated a discussion on stereotypes.

the society is so race conscious and we recognize blackness as race, everything a black person does is going to reflect on the community . . . The race and the person is not separate in our society."

On the topic of name changes there was disagreement.

"I'm not going to change my name. It has meaning to it. It has history," one participant said. "I saw a show where a woman told her child, 'If you don't get a job because of your name you probably wouldn't want to work there anyway.'"

Others felt, however, that a person should not be forced to remain burdened with a name that puts them at a disadvantage in mainstream society.

"If you have a foolish name . . . you have permission to change your name," one person said.

At the beginning of the event participants had been asked to write out a list of negative black stereotypes, as well as positives about black culture and heritage.

At the end of the evening, Holder and Tolbert, who were serving as moderators of the discussion, read from both lists.

People in attendance reacted positively to the discussion.

"I think it was an excellent event. I'm really happy as many

students came out as did," BSU President Mwende Muindi said.

"I think the event was very informative and allowed us to address a lot of stereotypes," sophomore Lacroyoh Walker said.

Three students arrested after confrontation with police

THEFT FROM A1

the moment.

According to the student, Hopkins has since moved Friedman out of her residence in McCoy Hall and into the Homewood Apartments.

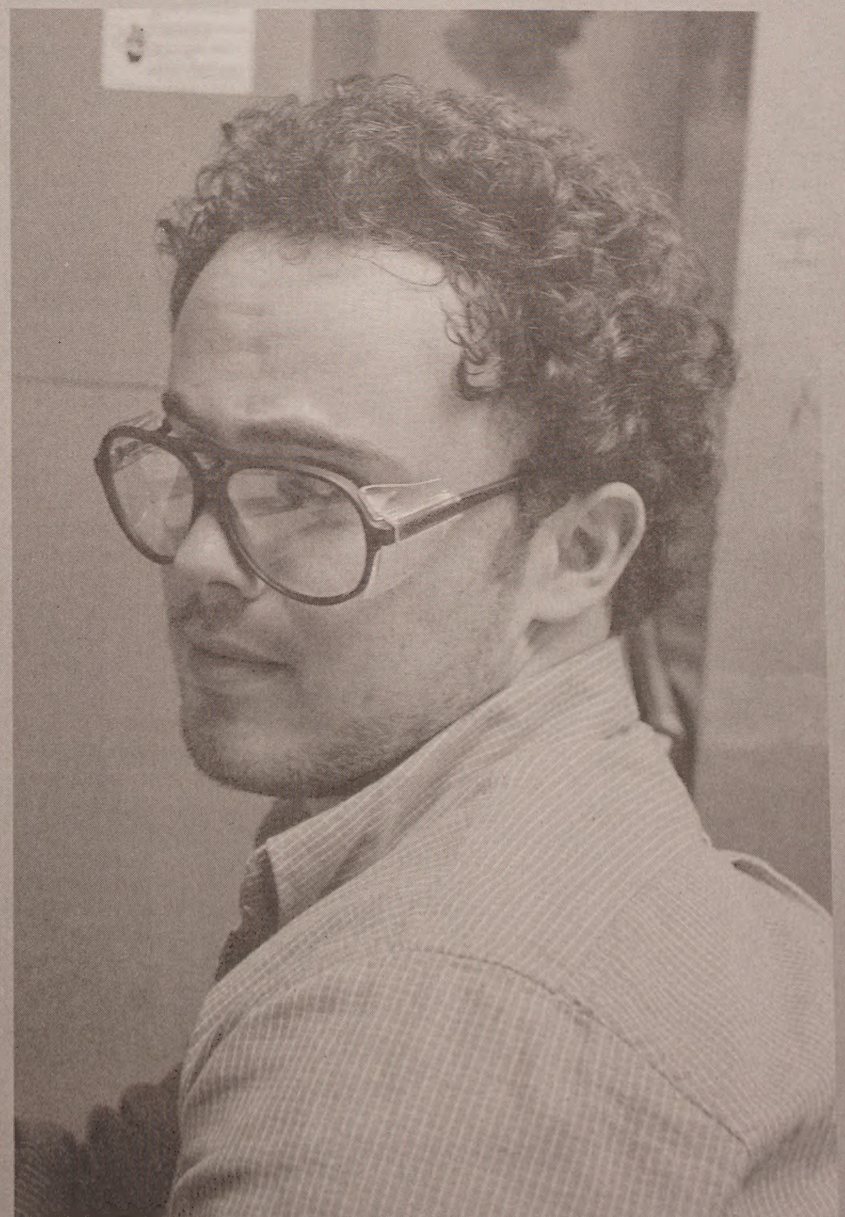
Hopkins spokesman Dennis O'Shea said he had not heard anything about the incident beyond the original security report.

The University has not released information on any disciplinary action against the students involved, but according to the anonymous student there are no plans to suspend those involved.

Executive director of Hopkins Security, Edmund Skrodzki, could not be reached for comment by press time.

The cost of the taxi ride is unknown.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



. . . mildly annoyed since 1896.

Challenging Chavez: Hopkins student leads Venezuelan protest

By SARAH SHULMAN
For the News-Letter

When he felt that the policies of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez were threatening the freedoms and opportunities of people in his native country, Hopkins sophomore Luis Martinez did not stand idly by.

Martinez and other student protesters challenged the Venezuelan National Guard, suffering attacks by tear gas and rubber bullets. Not many college sophomores can say they have experienced that.

Martinez, who was born in Caracas, attended a bilingual school that was founded by Cuban exiles. In 2006 he applied to 15 elite American universities. Hopkins was his second choice. Martinez's parents encouraged him to leave the country after high school, although this is not a normal practice in Venezuela.

"Venezuelans historically never leave the country. Usually they study, get their degree in Venezuela and if you have the money or the opportunity, [they] go to post-graduate school in the U.S.," he said.

Martinez's parents studied, lived and did everything in Venezuela. His father came to Michigan University to receive his LM, but returned soon after.

Martinez's decision to attend Hopkins was based primarily on its renowned international studies department.

"I wanted to do that [international studies], not just politics alone, or economics alone. I wanted a mixture of things," he said.

Martinez already has a significant amount of political experience under his belt.

In 1999, Chavez, a former Lieutenant in the Venezuelan Army who had tried to take down the government in a 1992 coup, was elected president.

After his '92 coup failed Chavez was sent to prison, but he was soon pardoned and was never charged.

When Chavez won the presidency in 1999 people were really upset about the traditional political parties getting this animal," Martinez said.

Martinez feels that the main issue with Chavez is that although he is not technically a dictator, or at least not internationally recognized as one, the division of power and all of the presidential elections and supposed limitations of government are controlled by him.

"Venezuela is a modern dictatorship — legally still a democracy, but everyone knows who is running the show," he said.

In 2006 Chavez proposed reforms to the nation's educational system which would bring every high school in Venezuela under government control.

Martinez said he opposed this reform because it would mean that "private schooling would end, because if the government controls it, it is public."

However, according to Martinez, the public schooling institutions in Venezuela would not give many students an education good enough to prepare them for attending a university.

That year, a high school senior came to Martinez's school to talk about the educational reform.

"He was starting a movement called United Student Forces . . . No one really knew about it, it was really small, and it didn't do anything at the beginning," Martinez said.

The speech caught his attention, however.

"From 1999-2006, barely seven years, I could easily see the changes in Venezuela. We were a developing country and now we [were] going back instead of forward."

Martinez spoke with the student, who liked his enthusiasm and made him the organization's Coordinator of Caracas.

"At the time I was like okay,



COURTESY OF LUIS MARTINEZ

The student group Martinez led grew from 100 to 5,000 members in a year.

sure, but we're like 100 people, it's like nothing," Martinez said.

In less than a year however, the movement had more than 5,000 students involved in Caracas and it was beginning to spread information to the public. Martinez and others involved went out into the streets and spoke to people about the reform.

In 2007, the movement had its first big chance to directly oppose Chavez's government.

That year, the government tried to close down the oldest television station in Venezuela.

We were a developing country and now we are going back instead of forward.

—LUIS MARTINEZ

"It [was] a symbol in Venezuela, and also the second only that talked bad about the government," Martinez said.

All the other television stations were either bought directly by the government or had the government paying their CEOs.

"People got really upset about the T.V. station thing. The education reform, its not that they didn't care, but they didn't know what it was about," Martinez said.

In two weeks, Martinez's movement changed from getting zero news coverage to closing down major highways. The date set for the closing of the T.V. station was May 28, 2008.

"The week before that, we closed down the city," Martinez said.

Access to the four major highways around the city was prevented and inside the city, high school and university student riots were breaking out. The government used the National Guard to combat the rioters.

Unlike adults who might have felt the Guard's presence to be too much to oppose, the students refused to leave.

"In that week there were probably three or four people that got killed, which is very important because it wasn't like a fifty year old person who maybe doesn't make the news, but an eighteen year old kid," Martinez said.

Although the riots continued, the television station closed and the students soon realized that nothing productive was being done.

In the months following the riots, Martinez and other students held routine press conferences, "to let the people know what we were up to."

The group also had weekly meetings with political parties and other student organizations. Martinez and another student created the Federation of Student Councils, and gathered with other councils to address issues that specifically affected students in

the country.

The first victory for the student movement came when the government tried to reform the Venezuelan Constitution.

Chavez wanted to institute indefinite reelection possibilities for the president and divide the country into strategic military centers, meaning they would no longer be ruled by democratically elected governors but rather by military personnel appointed by Chavez. The students began to educate the public about the reform.

"What [we] would do, is we would get on buses and stay in the bus all day, talking to people as they got in and out about the reform," Martinez said.

In the end, the government admitted defeat when voters rejected the changes to the constitution 51 to 49 percent.

"For the student movement, that was a victory. We were really happy about it because we thought we were getting things done," he said.

But their victory was short-lived.

"Then the government found a legal/illegal way to pass all the articles in the reform through the national assembly," Martinez said.

Eleven years have passed since Chavez was elected and he remains in power. Martinez remains committed to the opposition movement although he says, "From the U.S. it is very difficult what you can do. When I left, people criticized me a lot. Traditional student movements are not very open to receiving help from people who left the country."

However he has been in contact with various Venezuelan exile organizations and think tanks, despite the fact that his ability to help is limited by his current situation as an American student.

"I am mostly just trying to talk to people and inform them because people don't have a clue about all of this. Right now, this entire week, the city has been in riots and protests and it's not even on the news," he said.

Martinez expressed the opinion that the international community has a serious motive for not actively opposing Chavez's rule.

"Disturbing order would increase oil prices and people don't want chaos. If Chavez keeps order, even though he's not doing the right thing, I'm guessing they don't mind as much," he said.

Martinez plans to finish his education at Hopkins, attend graduate school in America and then head straight back to Venezuela.

His plans at the moment are to start a new political party.

"I would like to eventually run for office or actively be involved against Chavez, if he is still there. Hopefully he is not."

Head of Applied Physics Laboratory Richard Roca steps down

Roca, who has been the director since 2000, said it is time for a new leader

By MEERA RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Writer

After a decade of leadership, Dr. Richard Roca, Director of the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) announced in an email to his staff Jan. 7 that he will be stepping down later this year.

Roca became the seventh director of the APL in January 2000.

Before joining the laboratory, Roca spent over thirty years at Bell Labs in various senior leadership positions. He also currently serves on several advisory bodies to federal government agencies including the United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group and the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee.

He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a past vice president of its Board on Engineering Education. He is a former member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which accredits U.S. engineering schools.

At the APL, he leads a not-for-profit University Affiliated Research Center that performs research and development work on behalf of the Department of Defense, primarily the U.S. Navy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other Federal agencies.

As a director, Roca has contributed greatly to the development of the APL.

"On his watch, the laboratory has further strengthened its position as a key contributor to national security."

Its scientists and engineers have worked diligently and with great success to help protect the United States, its military men and women and its citizens against threats from sea, land and air; from outer space and cyberspace; and from sources conventional and non-conventional," trustee Chair Pamela Flaherty wrote in a press release.

"Since Dr. Roca became APL director in January 2000, the Lab has significantly increased its contributions toward solving the nation's toughest technical challenges."

The Lab responded to Sept. 11 by developing significant capabilities in areas such as homeland protection, cyber defense and "infocentric" operations.

After the attacks, Roca guided those who crafted technologies to keep U.S. military forces and allies more secure. Under his direction, the Laboratory also evolved as a major player in planetary exploration, building spacecraft and managing space missions.

In addition, Roca championed more robust partnering and collaboration among Hopkins divisions.

"His teamwork has greatly contributed to the research and

educational missions of the University and given valuable hands-on experiences in science, engineering and technology," APL spokesperson Michael Buckley wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

In his announcement to the staff, Roca expressed his gratitude to all members of APL, noting the "often unsung" members of the Enterprise Departments who transformed the APL with renovation of the campus and IT infrastructure.

"You are a remarkable group of people and you have made remarkable contributions to our nation's most critical challenges . . . Whether it be in discovery, application or analysis, you constantly strive to thoroughly understand the factors affecting your sponsors' success and apply the highest degree of professionalism as trusted agents to influence their ultimate directions. I couldn't be more proud of all of you . . . I, and indeed all of us at APL, owe a debt of gratitude to the various members of the broader University community who have helped us in our mission to serve the nation," Roca wrote in his e-mail to the staff.

Roca explained that he was stepping down mainly because he felt that "every organization requires a change in leadership in reasonable intervals."

However, Roca is not retiring.

"The phrase 'stepping down' was deliberately chosen. But, I have purposefully put off thinking about my future — I did not want to have any consideration of it to distract me from my current responsibilities. As I get closer to the summer, I'll gather information and start to make some decisions. For now, however, APL is foremost in my mind."

The search for a replacement is headed by the Board's Search

Committee under the leadership of Board Chair Stuart Janney.

The Committee consists of various Hopkins trustees and advisors to the APL committee who serve the federal government. They are currently in the process of soliciting interest from internal and external candidates, looking within the government, universities, research facilities and industries.

Roca himself lays out

what he thinks the requirements are for his successor and can include his own suggestions for specific candidates.

Basic qualifications for a director include experience in the Lab's work, and an ability to manage such a large institution and interact with key sponsors and federal agencies.

Once candidates are interviewed, the committee then submits its official recommendation to the APL for selection. This is expected to happen sometime this summer. Until then, Roca will remain in his position as director.

Because of Roca's contributions, the Lab will continue its missions to Mercury and Pluto, its observations of the sun and many other initiatives that Roca began.

"Dr. Roca's vision and insight also guided APL through an era of significant campus revitalization that enhanced the work of world-class researchers. APL's two largest research facilities opened during his tenure, and work is well under way on a new facility for the APL Space Department. His visionary fingerprint is on every inch of APL's grounds, its buildings and its people," Buckley wrote.

"APL's achievements would not have been possible without his foresight and vision, his leadership and his integrity. Johns Hopkins owes Rich Roca a great deal," Flaherty wrote in her press release.

As part of his parting words, Roca again emphasized the great work the Lab does for the university and for the nation.

"My leadership over the past decade may have played a part in the Laboratory's overall success, but it is your individual contributions that have been the heart and soul of this success. They remain with my departure, and, because of that, the Laboratory's best years lie ahead!"



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Richard Roca has been the director of the APL since 2000.



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NEWS & FEATURES

New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristof speaks at FAS

Kristof spoke about his travels and humanitarian efforts in developing nations such as Cambodia and the D.R. Congo

KRISTOF, FROM A1
women living in these countries for rights is one specific problem on which he has focused a lot of his efforts.

"The cause of our time, the moral challenge of this century, is going to be gender inequity around the globe," Kristof said.

He also went on to say that the reason for his focus on women is that in many developing nations, females are highly discriminated against, and many die from neglect, malnutrition or sexual abuse.

"The problem is that in much of the world, when there isn't enough food to go around, the practice is to starve your daughter to feed your son," Kristoff said.

"More women have been discriminated against to death than all the men who died in all the battles in the 20th century."

Kristof told an anecdote from when he visited a Cambodian brothel a few years ago and bought the freedom of two young prostitutes who had been enslaved.

Many girls whose families are impoverished are sold into prostitution by their families, because the brothels promise good money for girls.

Other times, the girls are kidnapped and forced into the sex trade.

Kristof had initially come to the brothel a couple of years prior on an assignment from *The Times* to cover the sex trade.

He learned through his visit there that one of the girls had been kidnapped and brought to the brothel.

Her mother had searched all over the country looking for her, and although she had rently been able to locate her daughter at the brothel, her mother was not able to free her because she didn't have enough money to buy her back.

"I felt kind of guilty, because I walked out of the brothel, knowing that I had a great front page story, but that these two girls were going to stay behind and die of AIDS," Kristof said.

Kristof then returned as a columnist to this brothel and bought the two girls their freedom.

He received a receipt from the brothel.

"I got receipts. When you can buy a human being and get a receipt, that should truly be a blot on our modern conscience, and this is happening on such a vast scale," Kristof said.

"That kind of human trafficking absolutely is modern slavery, and that's got to be very high on our agenda."

Another story that relayed the neglect that girls in poorer nations face was about an Ethiopian girl Kristof came across in his travels, who was working as a nurse at a hospital.

However, before she had come to be a nurse, she had been admitted to the hospital suffering from a fistula.

She had been married at age 13 to a much older man, and she had subsequently become pregnant and given birth by herself.

The trauma of the birth had given her a fistula, and she had been refused healthcare by the villagers, who preferred to ignore her, because she was a female and could no longer birth children for her husband.

She could not walk as a result of her fistula, and was left to be eaten by hyenas, but she managed to save herself by dragging herself up trees at night and eventually making her way to a missionary, who took her to the hospital where Kristof met her.

"She's an unbelievably strong woman," Kristoff said.

It's a measure of turning these people from these squandered assets into real genuine, productive people supporting their families and

their countries."

Kristof, who has won two Pulitzer prizes for his humanitarian efforts, also discussed his newly published book, *Half the Sky* that he co-authored with his wife Sheryl WuDunn, which focuses on the importance of educating women, and how that is also an often neglected subject. He told of many countries' economies that could be bolstered simply by educating and involving women in the workforce.

"They're ignoring half of their country's resources," Kristof said.

"If you want to help, focus on girls. Women and girls aren't the problem, they are the solution."

Throughout his speech, Kristof also emphasized the importance of doing things directly in a country, rather than telling people what to do, can really produce change.

"If more of our efforts were not by standing in front of a microphone and telling people what to do, but supporting [grassroots] efforts within cultures, then we will be much more successful."

Though he admitted that at times he feels bleak after visiting such impoverished nations and seeing so much pain and suffering, he said that the real thing that he finds depressing happens when he returns to America.

"To see these people, it isn't depressing though, it's utterly inspiring," Kristoff said.

What I do find depressing is to come back here and see people for whom there's no greater expression of their humanity than to have a hot car or a new iPhone. That's depressing."

"One way to raise your happiness is to find some cause larger than yourself, and get engaged in it."

Mark Brennan, a head organizer of the Symposium, explained that FAS chose Kristof as the Symposium's keynote speaker for many reasons.

"Nicholas Kristof tied the whole theme of re-engaging the world in a new global community together," Brennan said.

"He's a fantastic speaker, and essentially his work is about re-engagement, it's about reaching out, it's about going to the places where people haven't gone before. So if there's ever been anyone who exemplifies this theme, it's Mr. Kristof."

FAS was able to host Nicholas Kristof after a year of planning. The idea to bring Kristof to Hopkins came from President Ron Daniels, who had seen Kristof speak at University of Pennsylvania.

"He has a hectic schedule, so it's good that we planned it almost a year in advance," former FAS co-chair Michael Glenwick said.

FAS was pleased with the turnout of the event, as well as the diverse crowd that attended.

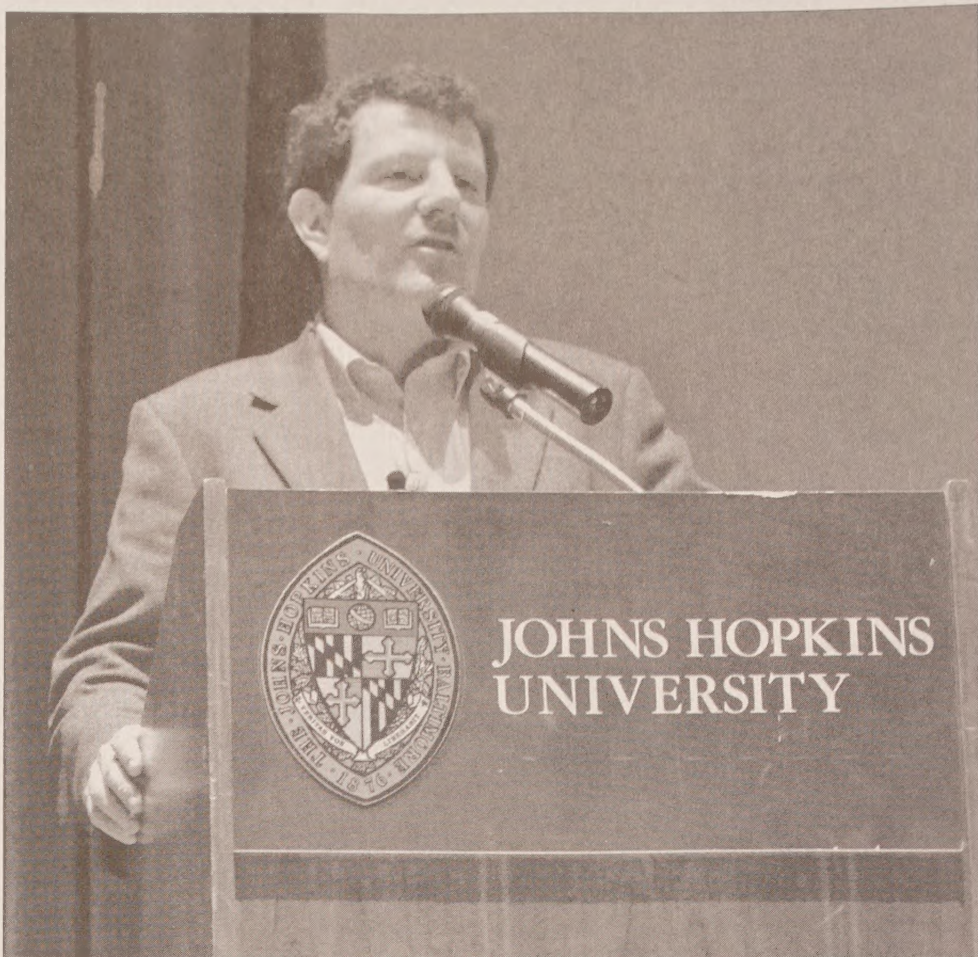
"The turnout was absolutely fantastic, it was the first event, and it looks to be an incredibly strong Symposium. If this is indicative of what the rest of the spring will look like, I'm really very happy," Brennan said.

Students who attended mostly came because they were fans of Kristof's column in *The New York Times*, but even non-readers of his column found themselves inspired to initiate change in their own ways.

"I really enjoyed seeing him speak, because I follow his columns," sophomore Amy Herbert said.

"I especially liked what he said about travelling and the impact of seeing things happen first hand."

"I just came because my friend is a big fan, but I liked how his message was mostly about hope," sophomore Kimberly Rubins said.



EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kristof inspired the audience with his speech about the importance of traveling to help others in need. He said that as a journalist, he has the power of the media behind him to shine light in areas that are often forgotten and neglected.

"I think it's important that he said that, because it's very easy to get overwhelmed by the bleakness of it all, especially for young people."

Senior Kaiwen Pai had not heard of Kristof before he came to the event, but he agreed with the other students.

"I thought the presentation was very inspiring. I'm an engineer, and I thought my career

plans were pretty straightforward, grad school, Ph.D, and then a job, but after hearing the speech, I was struck by how travel can be such an important experience, and it got me thinking about maybe integrating some journeying into my future plans," Pai said.

Before Kristof left, he briefly discussed with *The News-Letter* the moral responsibility towards

other people that journalists have.

"Basically, what I carry is the spotlight, and so the spotlight is most useful when it's shining on something dark, that isn't illuminated, and so that's what I try to do," Kristoff said.

"As a journalist, you ask for some special privileges, and with that comes some special responsibilities."

Autopsy study confirms Pontolillo acted in self-defense

SAMURAI FROM A1
investigation and consideration of the case by the police and state's attorney's office," Hopkins spokesperson Dennis O'Shea wrote in an email on behalf of the University.

"We are relieved for John that the decision has come out as it has."

Several students shared this sentiment.

"I think that was a fair verdict," junior Andrew Wisneski said.

Sophomore Claire Snodgrass agreed.

"I think that it's good to know that he could protect himself... and won't suffer consequences," she said.

Others however, feel differently.

"I just find it hard to believe that a guy who kills, albeit an intruder, gets off without any punishment," a freshman who requested to remain anonymous said.



FILE PHOTO
The site of the incident: Pontolillo killed Donald Rice with a samurai sword in September.

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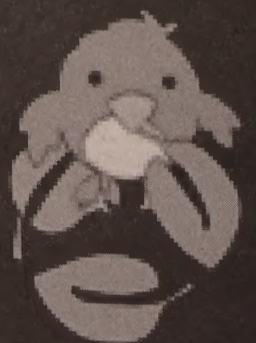


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News in Brief

City Briefs

Single-stream recycling starts in Baltimore: no sorting required

Local environmentalists received good news recently when Baltimore County began single-stream recycling on Monday.

This allows residents to place all their recyclables in one container on their curbside, rather than requiring them to separate plastic, paper and glass.

Instead, the recyclables will be sorted in bulk at a facility in Elkridge, Md, which is run by the national Waste Management Recycle America venture.

Residents will be able to put their recyclables in containers or trash cans measuring up to 34 gallons. Paper and cardboard can also be tied in bundles with nonplastic string. Containers should be marked with an "X" or "recycle."

This type of unsorted recycling collection has been in place in Singard, Anne Arundel and Carroll Counties since 2008.

This minimalist approach to going green has proven to increase recycling collections by as much as 30 percent in other committed counties.

Maryland has successfully required its counties to recycle for over 20 years. Since 1988, the state's waste diversion percentage has reached about 44 percent.

In July, Baltimore City started weekly trash and recycling pickups, further increasing the county's recycling quota.

Unfortunately, the city reduced the number of regular trash pickups, causing complications such as trash pile-ups and missed pickups.

Baltimore County has practiced weekly trash pickups for several years.

The curbside, single-stream initiative is available in nearly half of American municipalities.

— Becca Fishbein



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Baltimore no longer requires recycling be sorted into separate containers.

The Maryland-based non-profit organization has stived to end homelessness since its inception in 1985, and hopes that its \$15.5 million building project will provide more than adequate space.

The new center covers 60,000 sq. ft, more than three times the size of the old offices on Baltimore's less accessible Park Avenue.

The added space will allow the center to bolster a larger variety of programs and opportunities for its clients.

Healthcare for the Homeless plans to offer many educational programs to those in need, including art therapy and yoga classes.

More healthcare options will be provided, including an on-site pharmacy, as well as dental and pediatric clinics.

The building is also considerably more sustainable than the organization's old offices, with a partial-sedum roof and energy-efficient cooling and heating systems. In addition, most of the furniture purchased for the building is used.

The new center, which will be named after primary donors Harry and Jeanette Weinberg, will have its grand opening in March.

— Becca Fishbein

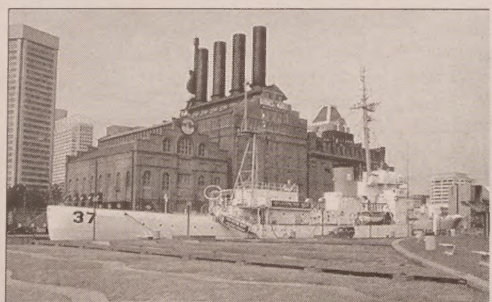
Baltimore Public Works Museum closed Wednesday due to budget

The Baltimore Public Works Museum near the Inner Harbor closed Wednesday due to budgetary issues.

The museum educated visitors about roads, rails and plumbing.

The Department of Public Works provided the primary source of funding for the museum. The museum is exploring private sources of funding to continue its mission of educating the public.

— Adam Zeldin



COURTESY OF WWW.USA-FEPP.ORG
The Baltimore Public Works Museum lacks funding to remain open

Maryland General Hospital to unveil \$57 million expansion on Monday

Maryland General Hospital will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday for its new \$57 million expansion. The 92,500-square-foot expansion will provide state-of-the-art equipment necessary for more difficult surgeries.

The expansion demonstrates the hospital's commitment to remain in Baltimore, especially after it almost moved to Cockeysville 30 years ago.

— Adam Zeldin

City teen sentenced to 50 years in middle school murder

A middle schooler named Timothy Oxendine was sentenced to 50 years in prison on Tuesday.

Oxendine, 16, was charged with the murder of a classmate at William H. Lemmel Middle School a year ago.

He pleaded guilty to charges of stabbing classmate Markell Williams three times in the stairwell at their school.

Williams's family stated that the conflict between the boys was over a girl, while the defense stated that Williams had been bullying Oxendine prior to the murder.

All but twenty-five years of Oxendine's sentence have been suspended.

—Laura Muth

Seven pounds of heroin found in the suitcase of Baltimore passenger at BWI

A Baltimore resident made headlines on Tuesday when he was arrested at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport after authorities found almost seven pounds of heroin stashed in his suitcase.

The man, Suleiman Zakaira, 26, was returning to Baltimore after a trip from Ghana.

Zakaira was randomly selected by a U.S. Customs officer to undergo a secondary examination before exiting passenger arrivals.

The massive amount of heroin was discovered hidden in a false bottom in his suitcase.

Officials estimated that the heroin would have been worth about \$430,000 if sold wholesale.

Zakaira now faces serious federal charges on counts of importation and distribution of a Schedule I narcotic.

— Becca Fishbein

Murder rate in January lowest for that month since 1977

While 12 murders does not seem like much to brag about, this number marks one of the lowest January totals in Baltimore in more than thirty years, second only to the lowest of 10 murders in January 1977.

January is typically one of the deadliest Baltimore City months, with an average of 24 murders in January between 1999 and 2008.

The early summer months, specifically May, June and July, usher in an average of 25 murders, while August and September have an average of 21.

February is the least deadly month, with an average of 17.

The lower homicide rate does not necessarily mean that Baltimore is becoming a safer city, as shootings are still prevalent.

As of press time, February has already had one shooting homicide. The body of John England, 27, was found on Monday morning. England had been shot and killed on the 2200 block of N. Monroe St.

— Becca Fishbein

Soccer coach pleads guilty to sexually soliciting a minor

A local man plead guilty on Tuesday to one count of sexual solicitation of a minor after police learned he sent graphic sexual text messages and nude pictures of himself to a 14-year-old.

Charles Friedel, 33, was a coach at the Greater Baltimore Soccer Club and had approached the girl to offer her private soccer lessons.

The girl informed her parents of the messages, who in turn notified the police.

A sting operation resulted in Friedel's arrest, where he was charged with four additional counts — including distribution of obscene material to a minor and solicitation of child pornography — that have been dropped because of the plea agreement.

Friedel was set to stand trial on the day that he pled guilty. He will be sentenced in May, where he could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

— Marie Cushing

In Other College News



COURESTY OF WWW.RUTGERS.EDU
The hazing incidents and beatings involving members of Sigma Gamma Rho reportedly took place in Rockoff Hall, one of the student residences at Rutgers University.

Rutgers sorority members at arrested for beating pledges

Six members of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority at Rutgers University were arrested after allegedly beating at least three sorority pledges with a wooden paddle.

The beatings were so severe that one of the pledges was forced to seek medical care and was treated at a nearby hospital for welts and blood clots on her backside. She was allegedly beaten more than 200 times.

The beatings occurred over a period of about seven days, and were considered a form of aggravated hazing.

An investigation is currently ongoing. The sorority chapter has been suspended by both Rutgers and the Sigma Gamma Rho national organization.

Hazing on college campuses is illegal in the state of New Jersey.

Whitney Taylor, the president of the Hopkins chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho chapter, could not be reached for comment before press time.

— Becca Fishbein and Marie Cushing



COURTESY OF WWW.UMD.EDU
The University of Maryland purchased The Washington Post's production plant and 18-acre plot.

University of Md. purchases old Washington Post production plant

The University of Maryland finalized plans to purchase the old production plant that belonged to The Washington Post last week.

The 18-acre site, which will cost the University \$12 million, will house facilities and services.

The State Board of Public Works must approve the purchase, which they are expected to do in a vote to be held next Wednesday.

The purchase is part of Maryland's attempt to expand and develop its 38-acre east campus.

Development plans include the construction of housing, a hotel and space for offices and retail.

The production plant was closed last year when production was shifted to Virginia.

— Marie Cushing

Williams College abandons no-loan financial aid package

Williams College has recently rescinded its no-loans policy, which granted student financial aid where they otherwise would have had to take out loans.

"Although I am not yet the president at Williams, I was consulted in this decision and support it fully," wrote Hopkins Dean of Arts and Sciences Adam Falk, who will assume the Williams presidency in April, in an e-mail to The News-Letter.

Since 2008, the liberal arts college offered aid based entirely on need. This helped many students cover high costs — tuition is currently \$39,250 for the this school year.

However, Williams College apparently could not withstand the weight of the recession.

While Interim President Bill Wagner maintained in an open letter on Sunday that the school is financially sound, Williams' endowment has decreased by at least \$500 million since the initiation of the zero-loan policy.

"In this context, the College must think carefully and strategically about every element of its budget, of which financial aid is the single largest item," Falk wrote.

As a result, the school has made a decision to return to handing out its old financial aid package, loans included, to incoming students in Fall 2011. Current students and the Class of 2014 will not be affected.

Falk maintained that the Williams financial aid program is still "one of the most generous among liberal arts colleges."

Williams is one of several colleges to implement a no-loan policy, some of which include Harvard and Princeton. However, Williams is the first to remove such a policy in recent years.

— Becca Fishbein and Marie Cushing

Chicago State University finds missing 400 lb. statue in office of state representative

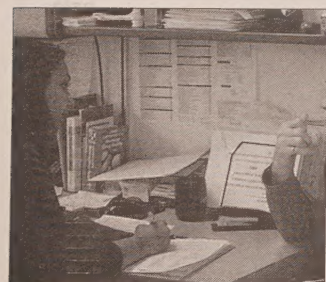
An Illinois politician will return a \$25,000 statue belonging to Chicago State University.

The 400-pound bronze sculpture titled "Defiance" depicts a topless woman with a scarred back. The statue had been housed in the University's now-defunct student aid office.

State Representative Monique Davis said she found the statue in a storage facility near where she had been keeping her belongings.

University officials told the police that Davis did not have their permission to take the statue.

— Marie Cushing



COURTESY OF HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS
Healthcare for the Homeless expands efforts.

Healthcare for the Homeless opens new \$15.5 million care center

Baltimore's homeless have a new refuge, thanks to the recent opening of Healthcare for the Homeless center on the city's Falls way.

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Baltimore begins running sustainable Charm City Circulator buses

Former Mayor Sheila Dixon's long intended plan to create an environmental bus system implemented

CIRCULATOR FROM A1
gas and battery power from an electric turbine and can reduce green house gas emissions by up to 25 percent.

While other U.S. cities have already implemented such energy-saving buses, like the R-Line in Raleigh, N.C. and the Lymmo in Orlando, FL, Baltimore is the first city in the nation, according to Circulator transit coordinator Sarah Husain, to run this specific model of Designline EcoSaver IV hybrid bus.

The buses are scheduled to run seven days a week at 10-minute intervals. The Circulator travels on three routes — the Green Route, which serves East Baltimore from City Hall to Fell's Point to the downtown medical campus, the Purple Route, which runs north to south from Penn Station to Federal Hill, and the

Orange Route, which covers the east to west corridor from Hollins Market to Harbor East.

The project also includes two free water-taxi harbor connectors, which link Maritime Park and Tide Point, and Canton Waterfront Park and Tide Point.

Currently the orange route is the only functioning line with only a seven-bus fleet actively operating. The other two routes are scheduled to begin running in March.

Since the Circulator began

running on Jan. 11, it has had an average ridership of 1,200 per day and has served over 15,000 people in the first two weeks of its operation.

While many using the Circulator are local commuters who already use the public transportation, Husain hopes it will help expand the tourism industry in Baltimore by making certain tourist sites more accessible.

I think the Circulator will encourage students, especially people who have never been outside of Charles Village, to explore the city.

— ALISON BOYLE, JUNIOR

"The [Orange Route] reaches museums like the B&O Railroad Museum and the Jewish Museum of Maryland," which, Husain said, are relatively less known and visited than others, like the Baltimore Museum of Art and the American Visionary Art Museum.

Local residents hail the bus system as a more convenient and efficient way to travel around the city.

William McCormick, a former resident of Charles Village, transfers from the Convention Center Light Rail stop to the Circulator, which he rides to Harbor East. He cites the ease of access to the Inner Harbor, where he goes to run errands.

"I've been on the Circulator three times and it's convenient for going to



COURTESY OF WWW.CHARMCITYCIRCULATOR.COM

A map of the three bus lines for the Charm City Circulator. The bus lines will cover East Baltimore, the Inner Harbor and Penn Station.

the bank and doing some shopping," Williams said.

The service is also utilized by university students, who find it an efficient and easily navigable system in comparison to other forms of public transportation.

Junior Alison Boyle, who works at the Arthritis Foundation in Washington, D.C., compares the Charm City Circulator to the DC Circulator.

"It's clean and quiet, and it runs constantly, so you never

have to wait too long," she said.

"I think the Circulator will encourage students, especially people who have never been outside of Charles Village, to explore the city."

First-time rider Nyeishia Williams, a senior at the Community College of Baltimore's Harbor Campus, is also excited about the new buses.

Williams, who lives in East Baltimore, takes the Circulator to go to class, which is just two

blocks from the National Aquarium stop.

The bus service is funded entirely by an already-established tax on downtown parking garages, which was increased in January of last year to pay for the free system.

Though the Circulator is still in its early stages of operation, which involves "tweaking stops," according to Husain, the city plans on conducting a ridership survey later this week.



COURTESY OF WWW.CHARMCITYCIRCULATOR.COM

The new Charm City Circulator buses, on the road the past month, are sustainable and free of charge.

CORRECTIONS

There was no errors in the Jan. 28 issue or the Dec. 4 issue of *The News-Letter*.

Johns Hopkins seniors, graduate students,
and recent graduates:

Don't miss this unique opportunity to apply for
the Annenberg Fellowship to Eton College



About the fellowship

- Includes a \$20,000 stipend through Johns Hopkins University plus accommodations and travel
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- Opportunity to serve as American ambassador to Eton
- Runs from September 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

About Eton College

- Renowned, private, all-boys school in England
- Pupils are aged 13-18 and are boarders
- Located across the River Thames from Windsor Castle
- Visit www.etoncollege.com for more information

Interested in learning more about this opportunity?

E-mail missy.kirby@jhu.edu for more information and a full description.

Application deadline: February 26, 2010

NEWS & FEATURES

Accessories, color and the right fit make any man hot

I'm sure this scenario has happened to the best of us: you're getting ready for a night out, trying on the best shirts and jeans from your collection. You don't know what to wear, but when you find that killer outfit, you feel unstoppable.

Looking and feeling fantastic, you head out the door and into your favorite party destination, only to see a guy standing there with the same outfit as you.

This happens not only because of the lack of fashion know-how, but because as unemployed college students, it is quite difficult for us to rock a new, innovative outfit every Friday and Saturday that will make us the center of attention anywhere we go. So, the next best thing is to make do with what we've got.

By using items from your fashion repertoire, and by following a few simple rules, you can be the best-dressed anywhere you go. Below are some simple rules that I feel as guys, we often neglect.

Justin Porter Guest Column

Rule 1:

Know your colors

I can not stress how important this is. Knowing your colors can make even the most simple outfit soar. It is essential that you figure out what colors flatter your skin and work best for you.

The criteria for this is, predominantly, dependent on the skin tone, but eye and hair color play a strong role as well. There are many Web sites dedicated to finding what colors compliment you best, but in the end, it's up to you to figure that out.

Try on a few simple colored shirts. Ask yourself if that color brings out your skin tone, hair color or eye color. Flatter yourself. For extra help, take the color quiz on www.style-makeovers.com.

Now, I'm not saying that you should go all James St. James, however, use the colors to your advantage. Mix and match. I've always read and been told that three colors is the max.

Rule 2:

Size does matter

Don't worry, we're talking fashion here. Surely we miss the '90s, but we must accept one important fact: That time is over. Leave the baggy clothing behind. I have seen countless guys wearing fantastic pieces of clothes, but they just don't fit — and as a result look sloppy.

Clothes that are too small can also be a problem, but it is comparatively a less serious mistake. It worked for the cast of *Jersey Shore*, right?

For shirts: Wear shirts that

comfortably hug your body. For us tall guys, it's hard to find shirts that are both fitting, and long sleeved, so we tend to purchase shirts that are too big to compensate.

In that event, simply roll up the sleeves. Just make sure it doesn't look like you just bought the shirt from the baby store.

For jeans: I am a huge supporter of skinny and straight leg on guys. Careful though, skinny jeans do not equal girls jeans. If I had a dollar for every guy I've seen with jeans that fit them really well, but had a floral pattern on the pockets, I would be rich. And yes, people do notice.

Here's a general rule of thumb: If you think it's too big . . . it probably is. If it can fit your little brother . . . it's too small.

Rule 3:

When in doubt, accessorize

I don't understand it. For some reason, guys will not accessorize. But if you crack open any magazine, accessories are in. Belts, ties, watches, earrings, glasses (the nerd look is hot, and it's in), hats, scarves, gloves . . . anything!

I was quite pleased to see skinny belts for men in the 2010 Monarchy Spring collection — I



COURTESY OF WWW.ABOUT.COM/MENSFASHION
This model accessorizes well with a skinny belt and glasses.

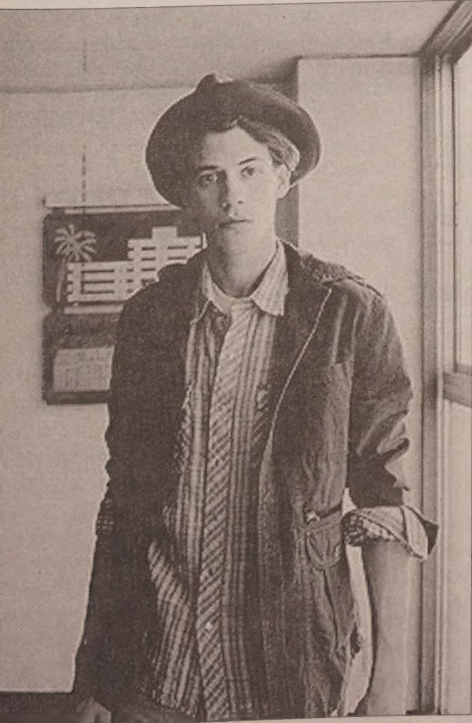
am definitely a fan. So let's say you're wearing a subtle, form-fitting V-Neck shirt that complements your skin, and a nice pair of skinny or straight leg jeans, with your best pair of kicks.

What's next? Throw on your best belt with a nice buckle or cool design. Add a complementing watch, and top that off with a scarf wrapped nicely around your neck. And voilà, you've got swag. For the vision impaired, replace the watch with a pair of glasses.

Guys, beware. Unlike our gender opposite, it's much easier for us to over accessorize. Not only does this ruin an outfit, but it makes us look like we're hiding something. Like colors, in general, three accessories is the max. You'd be shocked how using accessories can turn one simple outfit into hundreds.

Now, it's obvious that following these simple rules won't turn you into the next Taylor Fuchs or Sean O'Pry, but it will help. Start-

ing off with these rules can go a long way, but there's more to it. Don't be afraid to seek help. Unless you have a keen eye for fashion, check out some of the season's newest runway shows (my personal favorite, Custo Barcelona's 2010 Spring collection), or even open your favorite men's fashion magazine to get some personal inspiration. Go with your gut, be creative and don't be afraid! And most importantly, guys, drop the Abercrombie and Fitch — please.



COURTESY OF URBAN OUTFITTERS
A hat and a roll of the sleeves changes up your usual look.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Sexy food to get you in the mood: The basics of aphrodisiacs

My senior year history teacher had a favorite quote: "There's only three things you really need in your life: food, sex and sleep. Nothing better than that."

I couldn't agree more — especially the food and sex part, and especially when you bring the two together. Aphrodisiac foods have been around since the Neanderthals were chasing mammoths, and while there is still a significant lack of scientific research done on the subject, people are getting more interested in finding out which succulent foods are also seductive in nature.

The *Cambridge World History of Food* describes aphrodisiacs as being "first sought out as a remedy for various sexual anxieties including fears of inadequate performance as well as a need to increase fertility."

These days, we have Viagra to help with the performance problems, but there is definitely no problem with adding more of these flavorful fruits, luscious legumes and succulent sweets to your diet.

There are literally thousands of foods that have, over history, been considered aphrodisiacs. Here, I'm listing a few of the favorites, which coincidentally are almost all readily available at Char Mar.

For men, aphrodisiacs are used primarily to ensure a good performance. Oysters are the big cliché, which may stem from the fact that they somewhat resemble female sex organs. But, they are also full of zinc, which along with controlling progesterone

levels, is important in combating male impotence.

Still, there are certainly less expensive ways to get your zinc on.

Pumpkin seeds are also very high in zinc and are a delectable fall snack, so try toasting some of these up instead of microwaving popcorn the next time the two of you are in for the night with a movie.

Bananas: Of course the phallic shape might have something to do with it, but the potassium and B vitamins not only boost natural energy levels, but also regulate blood pressure. 'Cause there's nothing quite like hypertension to take the "fun" out of erectile function.

Women don't have to worry about getting it up per se, but there are still plenty of foods that enhance the mood and get our libido kicking.

The big favorite: Chocolate. Phenylethylamine plus caffeine plus magnesium equals healthy heart, heavenly taste and plenty of energy.

Most raw nuts will work (not those kind, pervert). This is especially true of almonds, which are very high in vitamin E, which boosts the libido.

Lettuce can't do much for you, but various other dark leafy greens such as broccoli, kale or spinach are huge sources of many different vitamins, as well as being super high in fiber.

This helps the liver metabolize estrogen and balance its levels for healthy sexuality. See, there's more to us ordering salads on dates after all!

Of course, for both genders, there's this crowd pleaser: Alcohol, helping the average and socially awkward get laid for over two millennia. Just remember, too much and you ruin the late-night fun for yourself. Nobody likes whiskey-dick.

Then there's garlic. I'm still a little wary of this one, but the allicin improves blood flow to the sexual organs, so as long as both partners eat it, the smell won't be so bothersome, and the hot sex should make up for it anyway.

One of the most intriguing entries I found was celery: it contains androstosterone, a hormone naturally found in men that stimulates sexual arousal in women. So guys, do yourselves a favor and start munching on that a bit more often.

Pesto is my personal favorite. A full meal in and of itself, it contains both basil, which is said to stimulate the sex drive and boost fertility (so, as always, use protection), and pine nuts, which are very high in zinc. Not to mention, if you share it, neither one has to worry about that garlic scent anymore!

Sadly, not all foods evoke the taste of love. The list of false aph-

rodisiacs rivals the list of true ones, so here's a few to avoid on a daily basis:

Truffles: French gastronome Jean Brillat-Savarin claimed in *The Physiology of Taste* that these special fungi stimulated the male and female sexual organs.

The myth probably also stems from the practice of truffle-hunting, where one used a specially-trained sow to root through the brush for them; supposedly the musky scent is similar to the one produced by male pigs saliva, so one can see why they would be drawn to it. But we are not pigs, so this one seems a little dated.

At this point, the legend seems to compensate for the blatant lack of physical properties.

Chili peppers: another phallic shape. Spicy foods in general raise your heart rate, increase energy levels and leave you feeling stimulated, but it's a fine line between pain and pleasure, and chili peppers stimulate you in a less than sexually productive way.

Last but not least, coffee. Sorry fellow college students, but on nights where you plan to get out of the library and into the sack, try to cut down to one or two cups of coffee instead of your normal six or seven.

While coffee is obviously stimulating, too much is a depressant. The best idea would be a small, but potent espresso with dessert to get the night started off the right way.

As with anything in life, these foods are best eaten in moderation. But hey, if you're going to burn those calories later anyway, it doesn't hurt to indulge in foods that help facilitate the act.

So dig in and enjoy.



Vivi Machi
Dirty Business

For fitness and fun, try a bike ride around Baltimore City

Professor Samer Hattar's lecture on Monday in Nervous System II focused on learning and memory. With regard to procedural memory, he mentioned bicycling.

"You're not even thinking about it — you're just riding the bike," Hattar said.

Though the rest of the lecture was considerably more scholarly, it was his simplest statement that hit home for me.

Working out in the gym is a conscientious effort for most of us — a chore. Riding a bike revives the same joy you had the first day you rode down a grassy hill without training wheels. The wind is in your hair, your legs are working hard, but it's not something to think about — you're just riding your bike.

Whether spent exploring the winding roads that traverse Maryland's hilly farmland or climbing through the Santa Catalina Mountains that loom above my hometown of Tucson, Ariz., riding, even for up to five hours, is not a chore. It is an adventure.

However, with all the recent e-mails from the administration

reminding us just how cold it is, precautions must be taken if you're going to brave the weather.

You must protect your toes, fingers and ears with shoe-covers, insulated windproof gloves and a fleece cap or balaclava.

A warm baselayer under regular riding apparel and a wind-breaker are also necessary.

Additionally, extra precaution needs to be taken looking out for obstacles in the road. Ice camouflages itself against the black canvas of asphalt. But if you keep a careful eye out and the city keeps the roads plowed, winter cycling is a great opportunity to see Maryland's pristine winter beauty — something foreign to me as a "desert rat".

You may not, however, know exactly where to ride.

If you are not ready to find a route on your own, here is a great place to start: The Hopkins Cycling Club has an extensive list of routes available on its website. The club also uses its listserv (subscribe @ lists.jhu.edu, then search "cycling") to coordinate group rides that help riders new to the area to become acquainted with the routes.



COURTESY OF VELOCIPEDBIKEPROJECT.ORG
Riders involved with the Velocipede Project enjoy cycling on the bicycles they built.

The club team is also a great way to pursue or start racing, if you have that competitive streak.

If you don't have a bike, I think it is well worth the investment. If you are short on cash, the Velocipede Bike Project, located a block north of Penn Station on Lanvale St., allows you to trade volunteer hours building bikes or teaching in outreach programs (they teach you everything you need to know) in exchange for which you can get bike parts or eventually an actual bike.

This is a great first step for getting into bicycling, whether for recreation or sport.

With a bike between your legs and knowledge of routes, all that is left to do is ride. Enjoy the magnificent valleys, farms, forests, hills and subtle treasures (such as the carillon at Trenton Church) that lie just minutes away from the Homewood campus.

Just remember to wear a well-fitting helmet and use caution, especially as you head out of town.

Adam Zeldin Guest Column

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

A prescription for clearer health policies

While the world valiantly fights against the H1N1 virus, the Hopkins campus seems to be struggling to come up with a clear and consistent attendance policy for sick students.

As if the daunting workload Hopkins students and professors face is not enough, we must also deal with the great confusion surrounding illness and attendance policies. There is a four party debate on the policy between the dean of student life, the Health and Wellness Center, students and professors. *The News-Letter* merely asks that Hopkins come clean on the issue and make sure that the policy is clearly communicated to students and professors.

The undergraduate student handbook states that Health and Wellness will not provide documentation for students who miss class due to illness. Students must communicate their absence directly to professors. However, if a student misses a significant number of classes or major assignments such as mid-terms or finals, he or she can give a physician's document to the dean of student life who will then notify the instructor. Nowhere is it written that students must obtain absence notes from Health and Wellness — only outside physicians. In fact, the handbook speaks strictly against students asking Health and Wellness for absence notes because it creates body-traffic that diverts attention from providing care.

However, Health and Wellness Director Alain Joffe noted that the center has been giving absence notes this year for students missing mid-terms and finals due to

illness. To add to the confusion, many students still believe they are required to get documentation from Health and Wellness for missing class.

This misconception predates H1N1. Last year *The News-Letter* ran an article about the confusion yet nothing has been done. Health and Wellness assured students that they would send a mass e-mail reminder of the current policy at the beginning of each semester to dispel the confusion. However, we have yet to receive such an e-mail during this semester.

As if the situation is not confusing already, many professors require students to provide documentation for missing class due to illness. In Professor Ruth Leys' "Trauma in Theory, Film, and Fiction" class, students lose half their final grade if they miss more than two classes without documentation. The syllabus for professor Leslie Kendrick's "Advertising and Promotion" class states that "for extreme illness . . . students are required to obtain documentation from their College's Advising Office."

College's advising office? It is not clear what this means. Perhaps Kendrick is referring to the Office of Academic Advising, which has no authority over students' sinuses. The Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures is particularly stringent about requiring documentation for absences. It is no wonder that students feel compelled to give a note to each professor every time they are sick.

It is time that the University develops a consistent policy on this issue and broadcasts it across campus.

Hitt the Brakes Before Going Green

As part of former Mayor Sheila Dixon's "Cleaner Greener Baltimore" initiative, the Charm City Circulator provides free, sustainable public transportation. We can now add this transportation route on top of Baltimore's already-crowded mass transit system, which includes the Maryland Transit Authority's convoluted networked bus system, the Light Rail's limited grid, the MARC train and the very short Metro Subway system. Hopkins students can also opt to take the Collegetown Shuttle and the JHMI shuttle.

All of these options make transportation in Baltimore an overwhelming experience.

Although the new Circulator service is energy efficient, adding yet another line seems to just another addition in a series of Baltimore's regularly inefficient city planning. Both another line and mode of transportation only adds to Baltimore's already cloudy and confusing mass transit systems. Some locals are accustomed to riding bus routes — but more people will be inclined to use mass transit systems if they are easy to use and are not riddled with time-eating transfers. City planners should learn from the confusion that the regular MTA bus system poses and aim to consolidate our transportation plans to a simpler system.

We fully support Baltimore's shift toward a sustainable transit system. But as this new system develops, we must make sure that expansion and growth are guided by a larger vision of improving the City's currently flawed mass transit routes.

The News-Letter proposes that the City of Baltimore reconsider its mass transit design. Baltimore should not add yet another option for transit, although the sustainable Circulator has been a good initial step. If Baltimore truly wants to be a cleaner and greener city, an eco-friendly bus line that further clutters the already existing routes will not fully contribute to this vision. No one will want to use another bus system with the same confusing routes and lengthy delays found in the current MTA buses, no matter how sustainable it may be.

Baltimore needs to reassess all of its routes and re-network its transit systems so citizens and visitors can simply and efficiently reach all points of interest in the city. Adding separate bus lines that reach different points of interest is not the same as designing a system that reaches all areas of the city. Our transportation can be more accessible while saving energy in the process.

Justin Jones



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to chiefs@jh.u.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of *The News-Letter* and can not be returned. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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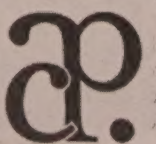
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OPINIONS

Viewpoints on Citizens United

The free speech decision

By MICHAEL MAIALE

Our elected officials can rarely pass up on an opportunity to stir up controversy, misrepresenting issues and cloaking them in populist rhetoric.

The newest cause for disingenuous posturing is the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission*.

In his recent State of the Union address, President Barack Obama said that, "the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests including foreign corporations to spend without limit in our elections."

Perhaps Obama believes that, but as Justice Samuel Alito now famously wrote in response, it is "not true."

The *Citizens United* case came to the court after the Federal Election Commission forbade Citizens United, a non-profit conservative advocacy organization, from showing its documentary, *Hillary: The Movie*.

The Commission argued that the documentary was a political ad against Hillary Clinton "sponsored" by a corporation, in violation of long-standing legislation on corporate donation restrictions.

The documentary was scheduled to be released during the primary election season.

Understandably, Citizens United was upset that the film it had funded would never reach the public eye. In a 5-4 ruling, the Court ruled against the FEC.

The Supreme Court's ruling in this case is widely misunderstood.

We should first be clear that this ruling does not overturn restrictions on corporate donations to political campaigns.

Contrary to Obama's assertions, it does not "reverse a century of law." The first major piece of legislation addressing federal campaign financing was the Tillman Act of 1907, but that act only prohibited direct campaign contributions from corpora-

tions, a matter that this ruling does not affect.

The Court's decision targets specific provisions from the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, an act better known as the McCain-Feingold Act. The recently overturned provisions from the McCain-Feingold Act prohibited corporate-sponsored speech regarding candidates for elected federal offices during election season.

This means that corporate entities were not permitted to make statements about a candidate when people were most likely to care about what they had to say.

I know that many might think that this is a good thing. After all, executives from Goldman Sachs and

General Electric certainly held enough influence in the last election. I am no happier than the average Democratic Party politician that, through their executives and through Political Action Committees (PACs), the leaders of top investment banks were able to give

millions of dollars to the Obama campaign.

We should, however, consider that restrictions on corporations do not just apply to Wall Street, Big Oil and Big Tobacco.

These restrictions also applied to non-profit entities like Citizens United and champions of the left wing like the American Civil Liberties Union and NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Shouldn't these groups be allowed to present their views to the American people precisely when they matter most? Even if we dislike some of these organizations, don't they have a right to tell us where they stand?

Apparently, advocates of the First Amendment agree.

Michael Maiale is a junior economics major from Philadelphia, Pa.

By OMAR QURESHI

Last month, the Supreme Court of the United States of America ruled against democracy. It ruled in favor of a corporate domination of politics, backroom deals and the neglect of average, hardworking Americans. In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that corporations may fund advertisements in support or in attack of political candidates. Asserting that the First Amendment entitled corporations to the right to unlimited political expenditure, the ruling created an inherently ruinous system. It is clear that the Court's decision was the wrong one, both constitutionally and democratically.

On the issue of constitutionality, Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing the Opinion of the Court, argued that having restrictions on corporate spending would chill free speech. Similarly, he noted that a corporation was simply a group of individuals and that individuals should not have their right speech inhibited just because they organized as a group. These arguments are woefully misguided. It is acceptable to limit free speech insofar as there is a "compelling state interest" justifying the limitation.

Demonstrating compelling state interest in this situation necessitates an analysis of the democratic implications of corporate spending on politics. To begin, the premise of the Court's ruling is false because it seems to claim that corporate spending will have no effect on politicians and the interests they represent.

This is a preposterous argument. Politicians will make decisions based on their financial supporters rather than the general interest of their constituents.

The January ruling is harmful to constituents because of the relationship politicians will have with corporations. One must note that politicians will begin to engage in backroom deals, wherein they make promises on certain issues, out of the public eye, in exchange for a political advertisement funded by a corporation. In effect, more and more politicians will begin to have secret corporate agendas, not up for scrutiny by the public at large. This is also, by definition, corruption: politicians are acting in a certain way in exchange for money and favors in the form of campaign advertisements.

Even if backroom deals do not begin

to emerge, politicians will be coerced to introduce and vote for legislation in favor of corporations. If a congressman, on any level, votes against the interest of any given company, he will fear an attack advertisement which might inhibit his chances at reelection. Similarly, incumbents might introduce legislation in favor of a specific company, whether or not it is harmful to his constituents, so that he can rally up corporate financial support for an upcoming election. This disproportionately disadvantages new candidates, instead advantaging incumbents.

New candidates will also begin to make backroom deals and promises, in the way discussed above, in order to counter the incumbent and other candidates. From these examples it is clear that corporate spending is incredibly damaging to a functioning democracy. Preventing substantial impediments to democracy allows for the use of compelling state interest. This means that the Supreme Court has reason to deem restrictions on corporate spending constitutional.

Perhaps the most pernicious harm created by the Court's ruling is that ordinary people become marginalized in the political process. Individual persons, small groups of people and groups without a lot of money have less of a voice than major companies. Essentially, the balance tips away from the vast majority of people and into the favor of the few. There is absolutely no reason why it should be acceptable to allow a policy that, in effect, mutes the voice of anyone without money — a compelling interest to allow restrictions on corporate spending. This is the reason why campaign contribution limits exist, so that everyone can have a meaningful influence in the political process.

Supporters of the Court's decision must come to terms with the fact that the political process will suffer greatly in elections to come. Americans will be forced to live with a government that is less attentive to them and intrinsically associated with wealthy companies. A country that was once very embodiment of a successful democracy, the United States, now has a challenge of epic proportions to deal with — all because of a botched Supreme Court decision.

Omar Qureshi is a sophomore economics and international studies major from Monett, Mo. He is the Opinions Editor for The News-Letter.

Twice Dead: Remembering J.D. Salinger

Rebellion against celebrity

By MICHAEL TANENBAUM

In all but medically pronounced fact, "J.D. Salinger" has been dead since 1980, when he gave his last interview to *The Boston Sunday Globe*. Having published nothing since 1965, he told his examiner — I'm not mincing any words here; everyone must have felt Salinger had explaining to do — that, "I love to write, and I assure you I write regularly. But I write for myself and I want to be left absolutely alone to do it."

By nature, recluses are not liable to generate much news, but it should not be forgotten that Salinger was once a highly polarizing and, to many, an inspiring figure in American popular culture. For years, *The Catcher in the Rye* was simultaneously one of the most censored and most frequently taught novels in high schools across the country. Literary purists and others who have consigned their youth to oblivion have battered Salinger's writing over the years (often deservedly), but still Holden Caulfield is a household name and a powerful cultural symbol — not so much of rebellion, which escapes the trickier question of our authenticity, but of adolescent awakening and visceral modern contempt.

The news of Salinger's death brought to mind a moment in late June of 2009, when I was at an outdoor concert in Rochester, N.Y., on a hot afternoon. City natives Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, a great reggae act, were up on stage, and I really could not have been in a better state of mind. Then a wave of whisperings revealed that Michael Jackson had just died, and the band made an announcement. Everyone was blown away, but the music played on. It was the perfect place to be for a musician's death.

Perfect, unlike the living room couch. For the next three months, Larry King featured nothing but MJ. It was so relentless, in fact, that up until the tragic shooting at Fort Hood — and apart from talk of the recession — Michael Jackson's death was actually looking like the story of 2009. I remember thinking at the time, even though I liked Michael Jackson's music, that this nation was overall too preoccupied with his death.

It's worth considering why J.D. Salinger — Jerome David — wanted to be left alone. Say what you will, but the man was a true anti-celebrity in a culture that was just beginning to distract itself with such surrogates for self-fulfillment. The sheer impact of his intellectual contribution underscores the power that writing has to cut through the medium of mass culture, which has no thoughts of its own, and into individual hearts and minds. This is ultimately why I have never been bothered by Salinger's withdrawal from public view, because in following his own heart he reiterated that becoming an icon is not an inherently virtuous achievement. Sometimes you have to kill what others make of you.

Michael Tanenbaum is a Writing Seminars and anthropology major from Abington, Pa.

Avatar's success: All politics

By GREG SGAMMATO

James Cameron, I apologize on behalf of critics, the Academy and audiences worldwide. We have done you a great disservice. Through ticket sales, nominations and glowing reviews, we have led you to believe that you're actually a good director.

Heading into March and the Oscars, Cameron's self-proclaimed sci-fi epic *Avatar* has easily gathered the most steam and generated the most positive buzz of all of this year's feature films. The 3-D tale, lovingly dubbed by honest viewers as "*Dancing With Wolves in Space*," is about to hit the \$600 million mark — and that's just domestically. Box office success, however, is not indicative of good quality. If that was the case, Michael Bay would be more successful than Fellini.

What's so surprising is that critics bought Cameron's movie as legitimately great. Phrases like "epic" and "never seen anything like it" grace the pages of newspapers and Web sites. Film buffs are already heralding the director as one of the greats, a man who possesses the rare ability to both please critics and gain widespread appeal.

This is, of course, a monumental pile of garbage. While *Avatar*'s special effects were not unimpressive, they were nothing we haven't seen before — as recently as *Star Trek*, which debuted earlier last year. The planet of Pandora is pretty, but anyone with a big enough paycheck can pay for impressive visuals. As Megan Fox herself admits, really cool robots couldn't make *Transformers 2* a quality film.

Even if one concedes that *Avatar*'s special effects were awesome, the film is otherwise devoid of any interesting or even passable content. The performances are not great, and Stephan Lang's Colonel Quaritch is embarrassingly overacted. The plot becomes tiresome and repetitive very

quickly, and at almost three hours, these problems become exponentially worse.

The biggest and most glaring flaw, though, is *Avatar*'s story — or should I say lack thereof. Anyone who has had even the most peripheral exposure to Pocahontas will be able to predict how this film plays out after 10 minutes of screen time. Jake Sully (Sam Worthington)'s journey from human spy to Na'vi defender was obvious the moment we saw him in a wheelchair. Such a reductive, retreaded story cannot be the work of a great director. The heart and meaning of a film can't be derived from its special effects or visual splendor. Any good movie must possess, at the very least, a script with some degree of ingenuity and acting that makes that script believable. *Avatar* is a trick, the gorgeous woman who can't put two words together. It looks great, but it's hollow, shallow and ultimately worthless.

So why all the fuss? The problem, it seems, stems from a society of critics too scared to voice the truth. While some movie reviewers undoubtedly loved *Avatar*, even more were too weary of being the only ones to pan the next *Titanic*. As a result, critics from most major publications lauded Cameron's movie as a modern classic. The problem with false buzz, though, is that it's self-perpetuating. After a few major critics had joined the Na'vi camp, others inevitably followed. The fact that *Avatar* received such overwhelming support is only a testament to how political Hollywood — and the entertainment industry in general — has become.

I have to give Cameron kudos. Ever since the vastly overrated *Titanic*, he has attempted to solidify his spot as the innovative and commercially successful director in the business. With *Avatar*, it would seem he has succeeded. Funnily enough, the qualities that make Cameron an ultimately flawed and mediocre director — immaturity and hubris — have fueled his newfound degree of success. The desire to go where no director has gone before led Cameron to pursue new 3-D technology and visual methods — Pandora's luscious scenery is evidence of

that. This immaturity, though, has led him to have an undeveloped sensibility. For him, either the lack of a substantive narrative was acceptable or he actually found *Avatar*'s story intellectually engaging. Well, no one ever said directors had to be smart.

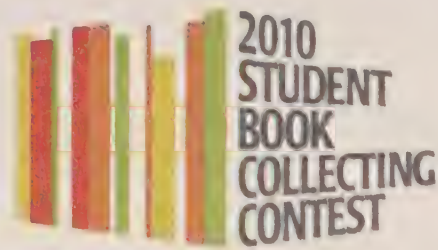
Perhaps the biggest tragedy will occur in a few short weeks. While Cameron's film is up for nine nominations, his ex-wife Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker* has received

the same number. Bigelow's war drama is a far superior film and has received even more positive buzz than Cameron's. At this point, though, *Avatar* has grown larger than anyone could have predicted. The likelihood is that this story will end, as *Titanic* did, with a Best Picture statuette. This is tragic enough, but at least spare us a Best Director award. With that amount of CGI, my dog could have directed *Avatar*. Hell, it already seems like he wrote it.



AVA YAP/GRAPHICS STAFF

Greg Sgammato is a sophomore economics and international studies major. He is the Arts & Entertainment Editor for The News-Letter.



Love Books?

Have a great book collection?

Then enter the 2010 Betty and Edgar Sweren Book Collecting Contest!

Eligibility: All undergraduate/graduate students enrolled in a degree program at Johns Hopkins University

Guidelines and entry form: Call 410-516-8992 or visit <http://library.jhu.edu/friends>

Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2010

Prizes:

\$1,000 First Place

\$500 Second Place

\$250 Honorable Mention

Off-Campus Housing Fair

March 4th | 11am - 2pm Glass Pavilion

Come and meet area Property Managers, Leasing Consultants, and find a new home!

Whether you are in the market for a new place or just want to see what is available in the community this is the event for you. Featured rental properties will be representing many different areas including but not limited to: Charles Village, Roland Park, & Mt. Washington!

Don't forget Homewood Open House

Go out in to the community and see the properties first hand!

Saturday, March 6th, 11am - 2pm!

Off-Campus Information Booth:

February 4th 5pm to 7pm

February 22nd 5pm to 7pm

Charles Commons: Nolan's

**Off-Campus/Upperclass
Online Forum:**

February 11th 4pm - 5pm

http://Home_at_Hopkins.jhu.edu

**Off-Campus Online Forum:
Safety & Security**

February 25th 4pm - 5pm

http://Home_at_Hopkins.jhu.edu

**Off-Campus Online Forum:
Understanding your Lease /
Financial Aid**

February 18th 3pm - 4pm

http://Home_at_Hopkins.jhu.edu



Off-Campus Housing Office
Wolman Hall, Room 102
410-516-7961
Website: www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus
Email: offcampus@hd.jhu.edu



THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

FEBRUARY 4, 2010



Scientists
discover
Karlotoxin
in nearby
waters.
Page B3

Anne Faber/ Graphics Editor

PICTURE THIS:
HOPKINS PROFESSOR
AND PROFESSIONAL
CARTOONIST

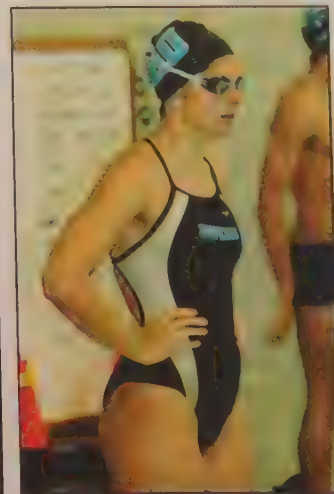


Justin Jones/ Graphics Staff

INSIDE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND

Enjoy this tasty treat guilt free.
At the Chocolate Festival in M&T
Stadium, all proceeds will go to help
the homeless, B2.



SPORTS

Hopkins does
swimmingly.

Men's and
Women's swim
teams bring
home victory this
weekend, B3.

YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 4 - 7

Where to watch Super Bowl XLIV

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Nolans (see calendar below) | 7. Any bar in Canton |
| 2. PJ's Pub & Grill | 8. Any bar in Fell's Point |
| 3. Charles Village Pub (did you know there's one in Towson too?) | 9. ESPN Zone |
| 4. Your best friend's dank basement hideout | 10. James Joyce Irish Pub & Grill |
| 5. Any Frat House | 11. Mick O'Shea's Irish Pub and Restaurant |
| 6. Any bar in Hampden | 12. Your dormitory's common room (this is last for a reason) |

Babe Ruth's Birthday Bash

So you know how Baltimore has very little going for it? At one point, though, we had one of the greatest baseball players of all time: Babe Ruth. In honor of his birth, the museum named is throwing a bash on the fifth. It starts at 5:30 p.m. and they are charging \$45 a head, so I don't know how much of a bash it will be.

They will, however, be honoring Nick Markakis, whose season was less than desirable, but is still a promising player.

If he shows up, you ladies might have a chance at being the side squeeze of a baseball player.

Surprisingly, quite a few of my friends find that desirable. Other than that, you can expect non-stop food, a silent auction and other things to make you spend money.

— Michael Ferrante

Tattoo Arts Convention

Tattoos: I don't get 'em. It's a painful process for a kitty or something cliché like Mandarin letters. To quote Daniel Tosh, "It means love and water." No, it means you're stupid." So now that we know my opinion of tattoos, guess what's coming to town? The Tattoo Convention!

For 20 dollars a day or 40 dollars for the whole weekend, you can take in all there is to see in the world of body art at the Sheraton City Center Hotel on Franklin.

Yes, this weekend only you can go and see some truly impressive works of permanent art. And then you can see the terrible affect age has on it, turning that cute kitty into a saggy tiger. Admittedly, some tattoos are downright awesome, and the chances are that you'll see a lot of them there. However, if you start seeing people with tattoos on their heads, it's time to run. Hit the calendar down below for more details.

— Michael Ferrante



COURTESY OF WWW.RAMSHEDLIVE.COM

B-more for Haiti Benefit

The old adage, "Better late, than never," really applies here. And I am setting aside my usual snarkiness to present this blurb to you.

Although the earthquake that rocked Haiti and the world, occurred over two weeks ago, the guys at Rams Head are putting together a charity concert on Feb. 6 to help the victims.

Although the worst of the earthquake is over, people are still suffering. Houses are still destroyed. Food is still hard to come by. This blurb is not a suggestion. If you have the means of getting to Rams Head down at the Inner Harbour, you are going and giving. The tickets are dirt cheap and all proceeds go to AmeriCares Charity.

Now to preempt you cynics out there, this is not the Red Cross. AmeriCares uses 99 percent of all funds for program services. So unlike other charities, this one has a high efficacy rating, meaning your ticket money will not go to waste.

As Rams Head claims, "five

of the area's most popular bands [have] volunteer[ed] their services for the concert including Evolver, Fools and Horses, Fall Back Plan, Carbon Stone and Kings of Leon Spinks (featuring Rodney Henry of the Cold Cold Heartbreakers and the Glenmont Popes)."

Now, if you are as plugged into the Internet as I am, you'll have looked up these names before finishing my blurb. I understand: they aren't the greatest bands in the world or even in the Chesapeake Bay area.

However, they are doing something good and you can either be entertained by the music or the terrible quality of the music.

Either way, you are sure to have a good time and you will be doing good as well. To get your tickets you can go to www.ramshedlive.com or call Rams Head Live Box Office at 410-244-1131. Tickets are \$10, and all proceeds will go to the AmeriCares charity. Door time is 7 p.m.

— Michael Ferrante

Chocolate Festival

M&T Bank Stadium, home to the beloved Baltimore Ravens during football season, will host a very different kind of event today, when the grand arena welcomes in Baltimore's annual chocolate festival, the Chocolate Affair. Over 50 of Baltimore's best restaurants, caterers and chocolatiers provide a wealth of delicious goods, and all proceeds to benefit Health Care for the Homeless of Maryland. This year's festival is a great way to support a good cause by, of all things, eating chocolate.

The price tag (tickets range from \$75 and \$150 dollars) is quite steep, but for that tidy sum, attendees are treated to an astonishing array of food and entertainment, all packed into the hours of 6 to 9:30 p.m. In addition to some of the finest chocolate, hors d'oeuvres and entrees in Baltimore, the event features legendary Orioles' catcher Rick Dempsey (the 1983 World Series MVP) as the honorary chair and will have auctions, dancing, live music and even spa treatments to go with the food.

This is the Chocolate Affair's 19th year and the fifth year in which the event has been partnered with Health Care for the Homeless (HCH). HCH is a charity organization that works to reduce poverty, hunger and homelessness throughout the state of Maryland. The event has outgrown a number of venues over the course of its history, and this year it moves into the South Club-level lounge at M&T Bank Stadium.

Anyone interested in the event can find more information, access links to find out more about HCH and purchase tickets at the fair's website www.chocolateaffair.org. The website provides directions to the stadium and information about parking, including the free shuttle service from the stadium's Lot B to the event's door. The Chocolate Affair is a wonderful opportunity to help fight homelessness and poverty with chocolate and other, less calorie-intensive pleasures.

— Alex Still

Super Bowl Party At Nolan's

Nolan's will again host a fun-filled Super Bowl party and provide an excellent place to view the big game with your friends and classmates. The event will feature several big screen TVs, many chances to win prizes, a wing eating contest and a modified menu in honor of the Super Bowl. Doors for the event open

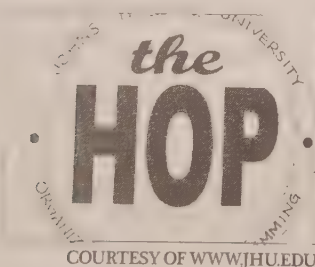
at 6 p.m. and festivities will continue well into the night, ending just minutes before 12 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to show up early, as the first 100 people on the scene will be entered into a Super Bowl scoring pool, with prizes for the winners. Everyone who attends will also be part of a raffle, with the allure of ad-

ditional prizes to win. These prizes will be announced closer to 6 p.m. The wing eating contest also provides both an additional venue of entertainment. If your team's prospects turn south almost instantly, fear not, as there will still be something to yell and scream about.

— Alex Still

HOP ART BARS FOOD MUSIC XTRA

HOP Movie: Precious
Friday, February 5
8 p.m.
Mudd Auditorium



COURTESY OF WWW.JHU.EDU

Mr. Belding's Karaoke Night
Thursday, February 4
9 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Nolan's
The principal of Saved by the Bell will be singing with students all night. Must be 21+ to drink.

JHU Barnstormers present "Black Comedy"
Friday, February 5
Saturday, February 6
Sunday, February 7
8 p.m. (3 p.m. on Sunday)
Arellano Theatre
See the farce "Black Comedy." All proceeds go to Haitian relief.

Hope for Haiti: Haitian Relief Party
Saturday, February 6
Great Hall
A minimum donation of \$10 with \$1 off for each sanitary item donated (max. \$5 off) is required for entry. All funds will be donated to UNICEF's Haitian relief efforts.

From Process to Print: Graphic Works by Romare Bearden
Daily (Museum closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History & Culture
This exhibit documents the methods and ways in which Romare Bearden came to maturity in the print medium.

On the Road: Travel and Transportation in Early Md.
Letters, newspapers and advertisements showing the ways people used to get around are on display in this student curated exhibition.

Amanda Burnham
Friday, February 5
11 a.m.

Creative Alliance at the Patterson
The artist presents her striking combination of drawing and installation art.

Framed: Portraits of the Hon. Sheila Dixon
Business Hours (ends Thursday, February 25)
Joe Squared
Supposedly no judgement, just art and "the truth."

Making the Invisible Real: Conservator's Discoveries about the Walter's Treasures
Sunday, February 7
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
See museum curators at work behind the scenes.

Bad Neighbors
Friday, February 5
9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Cat's Eye Pub
Acoustic Rock performance



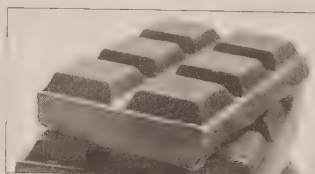
COURTESY OF WWW.BADNEIGHBORS.COM

Karaoke at Max's
Friday, February 5
10 p.m.
Max's on Broadway
Sing-a-long with your favorites with former radio DJ Mark Bishop

Saturday Fish 'n' Chips
11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 6
Mick O'Shea's Irish Pub and Restaurant
Well-priced Fish 'n' Chips

Saturday You-Call-It Special
9 p.m.
Saturdays
Charles Village Pub (19 W. Pennsylvania Avenue)
\$2.50 You-Call-It Special

Wicked Wind Down
8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sundays
Shorty's Martini Bar and Lounge
Wind down the weekend here.



COURTESY OF WWW.TRUESLANT.COM

Annual Chocolate Fair
Friday, February 4
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
M & T Bank Stadium
All-you-can-eat chocolate for a good cause: charity.

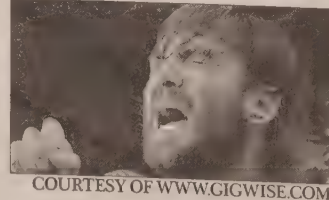
Chili Cook-Off
Saturday, February 5
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Pickle's Pub
Entry is \$30 for all-you-can-eat chili and a t-shirt

Half-Priced Burgers All Day Tuesdays
Mother's Federal Hill Grille
Burgers include the one-pound monster, turkey, veggie and ahi tuna. After 5 p.m. you can get \$2 Miller Lites, \$3 Pilsners and \$4 tall Captain Morgan drinks.

Paza Cinco
Monday through Friday
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
\$5 items include cocktails: a kaffir lime and Thai chili martini, Cava royale, white chocolate and macadamia nut martini, Mondello mojito and a gingerbread martini. Tapas include grilled pork tenderloin, empanadas, wood-grilled eggplant dip and mini pizza.

Reina Williams
Thursday, February 4
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Joe Squared
Reina accompanies your dinner with acoustic soul.

Scary Kids Scaring Kids
Thursday, February 4
7 p.m.
This post-punk band from Gilbert, Arizona is disbanding after this tour.



COURTESY OF WWW.GIGWISE.COM

2U: The World's Greatest U2 Tribute Band
Friday, February 5
6 p.m.
Rams Head Live!
The event title says all.

School of Rock: A Tribute to Motown
Friday, February 5
6:30 p.m.
The Paul Green School of Rock has been taking students ages 7-18 and turning them into real rock stars since 1998

DJ Patrick Turner
Saturday, February 6
12 a.m.
The Windup Space
Local DJ known for appearances at the Red Maple.



COURTESY OF WWW.JOKES.COM

Roy Wood Jr
Friday, February 5
Saturday, February 6
Sunday, February 7
7 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Baltimore Comedy Club
This comic started his career in 1999 at the age of 19.

Baltimore Tattoo Arts Convention
Friday, February 5
2 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel
300 of the world's best tattoo artists.

Babe Ruth's Birthday Bash
Friday, February 5
5:30 p.m.
Camden Yards
Oncludes a silent auction; appearances by local athletes, all-you-can-eat-and-drink, door prizes, and free parking.

Baltimore Ballet Gala
Saturday, February 6
3 p.m.
Lyric Opera House
Guests from American Ballet Theatre, Washington Ballet, Merce Cunningham, and Alvin Ailey will be in the house.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Witness blurs reality and imagination in *Matriculated* Grammys and Lost boost T.V. ratings

By **KELSEY MILLER**
Staff Writer

This past weekend, Witness Theater opened the season with *Matriculated*, a full-length student production written by the talented junior Douglas Ross.

Co-directed by Douglas Ross and junior Rob Powers, this show was a look into an alternate university reality, where a recognizable escort van, professor's office and dorm room are all inhabited by surreal, disturbed people.

The play opens in the aftermath of a car accident, with a paramedic (freshman Tricia Decker) attending to two injured students, Sanjit (freshman Manish Mehta) and Noah, played by senior Eric Levitz.

Noah is tense and talkative, interrupting the paramedic's work with his disoriented associations. However, the audience only slowly realizes that this is from his unstable personality rather than any head trauma. Levitz's performance in this role is convincing and fascinating, as he keeps the audience attentive to the character's odd behavior.

Following this, the radio host Beneker, played by junior Mac Schwerin, introduces the controversial Professor Bradshaw, played by junior Mike Alfieri. Bradshaw, a pompous anthropologist, is the target of

the college's radical activism group, the Matriculators, which aims to expose his undisclosed manuscript, which contains an inflammatory, racist theory of university education.

The play transitions into a scene concerning one of these Matriculators, Teddy, played by senior Mike Wills. Teddy learns that his grandmother has had a stroke while he is in bed with his resistant girlfriend Celia, played by senior Rose Xie.

The scenes concerning this couple are tense, sexually charged and full of dark humor, but they also seem disparate from the rest of the play. The connection is that Teddy is trying to work with Noah in changing the "complicit" attitudes of the student body by exposing Bradshaw.

The character of Teddy, with his drug use and abusive tendencies towards his girlfriend, is not easy to read overall, especially when he is cast as more sympathetic and less dangerously radical at the end — the "bad college revolutionary" in comparison to Noah, who turns out to be shockingly brutal.

However, Wills portrays the range of Teddy's emotions easily and honestly, from being almost sweet and bitterly funny, to being deeply frustrated with himself and reality.

In the next scene, Noah visits Bradshaw, who has realized that

his office was robbed and the manuscript taken. This section was a good example of Ross' clever dialogue, which sustains the bleak humor of the play.

Although at times his ideas and references seem forced, there are unexpectedly and genuinely funny moments, such as when Bradshaw asks Noah about his horrendous bloody injury, and Noah says casually, "I cut myself shaving."

In the next scene, Noah talks on a bench with an acquaintance, Frank (freshman Benjamin Zucker), while a homeless man, Penn (junior John Pontolillo) wanders around the stage, intrusively interacting with the audience by asking for spare change.

He talks constantly, telling incoherent stories over the dialogue between Frank and Noah. The effect is that the audience feels accosted and resistant to listening.

The next several scenes, in which the manuscript is revealed, continue to reveal more about the characters, with Noah throwing a temper tantrum at a bank and Teddy binging on drugs, saying, "I'm doing the best I can with my chemistry."

A few more characters are introduced, including another couple, Sam (sophomore Luke Mayhew) and Joyce (freshman Mary Strong), as well as the bank teller/grandmother (sophomore Maxi Gumprecht) and analyst (freshman Ian Cash).

Their performances helped



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Mike Wills and Rose Xie's abusive, sexually charged relationship is a focus of Douglas Ross's *Matriculated*.

give the play more context, but the overall structure of this play still lacked fluidity, and the line of action was hard to follow. The radio announcer (Schwerin) helped narrate the plot, but the storyline was not convincing enough to really make disparate scenes of the play connect naturally.

The central premise of the manuscript could have been more compellingly developed, as more seemed to be at stake in the neuroses of the characters themselves than in their schemes.

But this exploration of idea and character was more successful. The audience meets Noah first, and although he gets sympathy in the beginning, it becomes apparent as the play goes on that he is not a trustworthy measure of reality. In fact, this play lacked

any sense of solid ground.

The main characters are bizarre and mentally unstable, and it gets harder to relate to them, as their actions — masturbating in front of a comatose grandmother, setting up a hydrochloric acid booby trap — get further from any recognizable realm. The effect is heightened by the dialogue, which was intelligent but at times contrived, at least in tone.

However, the fact that the narrative space of the play was so disjointed and dreamlike was not a disappointment, as theater is an ideal space for exploring that kind of unsettling ambiguity. *Matriculated* was intelligently written and produced, and overall a thought-provoking but ironic look into a darker, more disturbed vision of our own reality.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Eric Levitz, Manish Mehta and Tricia Decker deal with the aftermath of a car crash.

Local cartoonist Chalkey shares thoughts on Hopkins

By **RACHEL GREENBERG**
Staff Writer

Many Hopkins students are familiar with the expansive map of Baltimore displayed in the Barnes and Noble on St. Paul St. The map extends from Fell's Point and the Inner Harbor to the outer towns of Luthersville and Towson and features the names and faces of prominent Baltimore citizens, as well as landmark sites.

Baltimore natives are known for pride in all things locally produced, especially their local celebrities and talents. Not surprisingly, a piece of artwork that expresses such enthusiasm comes from a local artist. What may be news to some, however, is that the artist is Hopkins staff member Tom Chalkley, instructor of illustration.

Chalkley spoke fondly of the students he has taught in his 20 years at Hopkins, though at a school with such a reputation for science and technology, the artistic talents of the student body may come as a pleasant surprise.

"The perhaps not very dark secret is that there are a lot of people who are really studying engineering, math and medicine because their parents want them to. Is that a secret? There are these kids in the Hopkins student body who are immensely gifted artistically in painting, drawing, and music, and they're fulfilling instead an ambition that their parents have for them," he said.

"I'm not saying that's a bad thing, but a lot of these people come here and want an outlet." Many of his students have discovered their creative outlets in illustration, and some of Chalkley's students have become successful professional cartoonists.

Others, however, "may become brilliant doctors, but they may in private become illustrators. Some of them may become medical illustrators, you never know." The skills taught in

a rock band with Hopkins painting instructor Craig Hainkin. Having left college after a difficult illness, Chalkley began an artistic career based purely on determination and skill.

With no initial plan to become a teacher, Chalkley eventually started to illustrate for a living, calling on his life-long fascination with illustration. His major artistic influences include classic comic strip "Pogo," *Mad Magazine* and Dr. Seuss. Ever since he encountered these respective inspirations, he began developing his personal style, drawing cartoons for his junior high, high school and college newspapers.

The Baltimore art scene to which Chalkley was introduced was different than the more competitive cities of New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"Here you have people who are much more comfortable and want to do their own thing, their own art, and follow their own muses. There's much more of a familial feeling among artists here than in other communities," he said.

"What's grown up here is a lot of art that doesn't take itself so goddamn seriously. You'd think I

fit into that, but really there's a lot of humor involved in Baltimore art, a great sense of funkiness. It's partly that sense of humor, it's partly a disregard for stuffy high-mindedness, a

SEE **CARTOONIST**, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF TOM CHALKLEY

Tom Chalkley's self-portrait demonstrates his quirky artistic style.

Chalkley's class can be widely appealing and practical.

As an illustrator, a teacher and a reporter for the *Baltimore City Paper*, Chalkley has been active in the Baltimore community since he came here in 1979 to start



COURTESY OF WWW.LAST.FM

Adam Young of Owl City, who recently skyrocketed to pop music fame, performed a set that rivaled the sound of his recordings.

It's Friday night at Ram's Head Live and it's almost to 8 p.m. People pack the insides of the concert venue like too many sardines in one flimsy, multi-layered tin can. On the ground floor, pimply, adolescent boys dressed to the nines in fluorescent plaid clutch their shy, unassuming girlfriends to their chests.

On the upper levels, pre-teen girls grab at their flat chests in a melodramatic fashion, and let out screams of impossible pitch and length. A few adults cast astonished eyes over the complete pandemonium, but they are few and far between.

The lights go up, the screams increase and the opening band introduces itself. Members troupe out onto the stage to take their places. Their instruments include two keyboards, a drum set, a bass and a guitar.

A gorgeous brunette takes her place behind one of the keyboards, the singer takes his place behind the other.

"I love you, keyboard player!" a bro shouts around a swig of beer. The crowd hushes and, with a nod, Deas Vail begins to play.

As openers go, the Arkansas-based electro-rock group is surprisingly good. The band's songs draw firmly from the layering of sound, building a base with rhythm, working through canonical keyboard arpeggios and

chords before applying a judicial amount of synthesizers.

The front man, a slightly androgynous man rocking scene hair and a ragged scarf, possesses a clear, carrying voice that rarely falters, while keyboardist sings counterpoint, higher, but just as sweet. The members seem a little nervous still; they don't move much from their stations.

Only the bassist gets into a groove, bopping along to the beat. Deas Vail, despite a ham-fisted drummer and stiff, uncomfortable guitarist, shows promise.

The noise between sets grows. The male population moves restlessly. Their darling, their ultimate jerk-off fantasy, takes the stage. Lights enjoys an almost unparalleled popularity in a scene made up of synth-pop, electronica and video game junkies.

With a mixture of waifish vulnerability, testosterone savvy, and decent musical ability, this Toronto singer-songwriter has won the hearts of boys across both nations.

She apologizes for the state of her keytar, which has mysteriously experienced technical difficulty in the time between soundcheck and her set. Clad in a red plaid flannel shirt and sporting her characteristic mussed hair, she proves her vocal talent: she too has a decent voice, a little fragile, perhaps, but on key and in tune. In today's music indus-

try, that's all one can ask for.

Finally, the musician everyone has been waiting for enters onto the stage. Adam Young, of Owl City fame, looks less intimidating that one would expect from this pop music phenomenon. He launches into song; surprisingly, he sounds almost exactly as he does on his record.

In this instance, at least, vocal ability remains true to expectations. As a performer, Young makes an interesting case study. He throws himself across the stage, arms wind-milling, torso twisting. He resembles a rag doll, or perhaps a puppet with its strings cut.

"Fireflies," the catchy, emblematic radio single released earlier this year, rouses the audience to unified song. Young eats it up, smirking, while extending his microphone to the crowd. It is a beautiful moment — the lighting softens and lights the upturned faces below him, while limning the singer in white. "He looks like Jesus," one spectator whispers to a friend.

But alas, the magic must end, and Owl City exits to a cacophony of wolf whistles and screamed "I love you's" after his encore. The tour will continue, and the diehards will go to school on Monday, donning their owl-emblazoned merchandise with pride. Life will go on, or at least stagnate, until the next scene sensation makes its way to Ram's Head Live.

— Hsia-Ting Chang



COURTESY OF WWW.POPMATTERS.COM
Lady Gaga kicked off the 2010 Grammys with a rendition of her hit "Poker Face."

Lost and the Grammys beat Miss America's viewer ratings

RATINGS, FROM B3

Virginia's stunning yellow dress. The judges must have been impressed for various other reasons as she was later chosen to be 2010's Miss America.

While the purpose of the evening gown and bathing suit rounds may be lost on viewers of the female persuasion, announcer Mario Lopez made sure to clarify.

Where the evening gown round shows the poise, confidence and personal style of the contestants, the bathing suit round promotes the importance of physical fitness.

What, did you think that the purpose was to simply parade the 20-somethings around in swimsuits?

The talent portion was certainly lacking in something — actual talent, perhaps? With the exception of one pianist, the women either danced or sang for the crowd. In renditions of Broadway classics such as *Les Miserables*' "On My Own" and *West Side Story*'s "Somewhere," the performers not only fell off tempo, but also off key.

A shot of the contestants' parents was cut to after each performance, the mother usually tearing up and the father applauding heartily. And while no one was outrageously horrible, it was clear that the women's real talents were in the ability to parade around in high heels for hours.

Jokes aside, the Miss America pageant has been experiencing a drop in ratings. After all, why sit through a slightly painful talent competition just to watch beautiful women when one can just as easily use Google to search for the same sort of eye candy?

The following evening, however, ratings soared at the 2010 Grammys, beating out other recent award shows such as the Golden Globes. Some of this may be the Grammys' attempt to appeal to more than just "award show buffs" by having a surplus of performances.

There was a live performance between nearly every commercial break. Keep in mind that these performances are not just a "get up on stage and sing" thing, but more along the lines of theatrical productions. And who better to start off an evening celebrating music than 2009's "shock star" Lady Gaga? After a non-typical rendition of "Poker Face," she transitioned to the next segment of the performance: a duet with Elton John.

The two bedazzled stars wove GaGa's "Speechless" and John's "Your Song" into one. In true GaGa fashion, John had soot covering his face and rhinestone glasses hiding his eyes to match his duet partner. With a little tweaking of the lyrics ("How wonderful life is with GaGa in the world," John crooned), this performance was one of the most inspiring of the evening.

Other performances included a Stevie Nicks and Best Album winner Taylor Swift duet, an aerial feat by Pink, an over-censored Eminem, Drake and Lil' Wayne collaboration and even a rendition of the break-up anthem "You Oughta Know" by Beyoncé. Big winners included Swift with four Grammys, Beyoncé with six and Black Eyed Peas with three.

Unsurprisingly, a Michael Jackson tribute rounded out the evening's events and added a nice sentimentality to an evening devoted to awards and dresses.

Tuesday night, though, was perhaps the most anticipated of this previous week's shows as the sixth and final season of *Lost*

We the Kings talk philanthropy and touring

By HSIA-TING CHANG
Staff Writer

While the weather this past week has had its up and downs, pop-rock outfit We the Kings is definitely happier with its ups.

The sun-soaked beaches and balmy Florida nights, imprinted so thoroughly in childhood, leak into the upbeat, catchy sound of these Bradenton natives; it only makes sense then that bitter East Coast winters present some challenges for the members of the band.

Nonetheless, We the Kings signed up for the Take Action Tour, a charity tour that emphasizes leukemia awareness while hitting all the coldest places in the United States at the same time.

"It's the first time that We the Kings as a band has been able to use its success to help a charity tour," Travis Clark, the redheaded front man for the band, said. Hundreds of miles away in Chicago, over a fuzzy phone connection, he still managed to exude earnest concern over the plight of terminally ill children.

"I've said since day one, if we can help save one kid's life, then the whole thing will be completely worth it, and even if we don't at least we're helping spread the awareness of the charity," he said.

Each year, the non-profit organization promotes a different cause (last year it dealt with bringing awareness of teen suicides to the public), though the theme — youth involvement in charities — remains the same. The 2010 line-up champions leukemia awareness and promotes signing up for the Nation Marrow Registry.

The tour, sponsored by the non-profit organization Sub City, supports of We the Kings' second album, entitled *Smile Kid*.

The record fully embraces the idea of hope and the triumph of young love over all obstacles — if the music industry were a video rental store, We the Kings would fall firmly under the category of Disney movies, promulgating the eventual success of goodness and true love with a nod towards reality and cynicism.

"It's just with everything else



COURTESY OF WWW.LIVETHESCENE.COM
Pop-rockers We the Kings join other bands to promote leukemia awareness for the Take Action Tour.

in the world, I'd rather write a happy song versus a sad song or a break-up song," Clark admitted. This is a valid choice, one supposes, when the world at large is taken into account. The immediate concerns of a struggling economy and an uncertain global stability have touched even this ginger-haired artist.

"There is one song on our new record called 'Rain Falls Down' that talks about a person who's very, very close to me," he continued.

Her grandfather died, and her brother — his girlfriend broke up with him. Her dad lost his job and was feeling super depressed. All this happened within two weeks, all at the same time," Clark said.

"She just felt like everything was literally crashing down all around her, and instead of focusing on that part of it, I focused on the fact that she had friends and she still did have family who loved her. There are huge sad undertones, but the good moral is that you're not alone in the situation."

Nonetheless, Clark adopted a positive attitude while writing the follow-up to We the Kings' 2007 self-entitled debut.

"When we went in to do this record, we were much more well-prepared. . . . When we actually came in here it was nerve-racking at first because you want it to be perfect, but as you see everything begin to flesh out, it becomes better and better, and you become more comfortable with it," Clark said.

A band unique to our generation, We the Kings found fame through the internet. Its rise to success came mostly through the medium of Myspace and Purevolume, and therefore fostered a relationship with fans more or less directly through the World Wide Web. Members signed to the indie label S-curve, and proudly declared their non-corporate roots.

"I would say we're obviously a band that plays the music that we love. We are on an indie label, which is cool, because a lot of major labels sort of force you down people's throats. They're like 'listen to this, listen to this, listen to this,' and for us, the fans that we have now found out about us by searching the internet or going to a show," Clark said.

It is precisely this intimate relationship that keeps the rock quartet grounded despite its grueling schedule. Out of the 365 days of the year, the band played

310 shows and recorded *Smile Kid* in 2009.

This year looks to be no less busy, with a UK Tour with You Me at Six directly following the Take Action Tour, and then the Warped Tour following that. It is the fans, Clark said, that keep them going.

"I think it's all about remembering who you are and the people who kind of made you that way, which is for us our friends and family. And fans, without them we'd be nothing," he added.

We the Kings will be performing at Bourbon St. Ballroom on Guilford Ave. as part of the Take Action Tour. Other bands include Mayday Parade, A Rocket to the Moon and There for Tomorrow. Doors open 6:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$19 the day of the show.

For more information on the tour and the charities associated with it, visit www.takeaction-tour.com.

ARTIST
Charlotte Gainsbourg
ALBUM
IRM
LABEL
Elektra/ Asylum
RELEASED
Jan. 26, 2010

singer-song-writer Charlotte Gainsbourg's third studio album, *IRM*.

The daughter of famous French singer Serge Gainsbourg and British singer Jane Birkin had some famous hands help her out this time around, with singer-songwriter and producer Beck manning the mixing booth and penning 13 of the 14 tracks that made the cut.

The result is a very pretty, if uninspired, mix of Gainsbourg's piano-oriented, dreamy style and Beck's multi-instrumental, indie mash. The album is eclecticism incarnate. Although each song is certainly unique, plenty of artists are creating very similar — and better — music.

Instead of the breathy, Birkin-reminiscent girl heard on Gainsbourg's second release, *5:55*, one gets the impression that she's releasing this album simply for the sake of it.

From the first notes of "Master's Hands" to the final guitar

NEW VIBRATIONS

strum in "Looking Glass Blues," she's looking in every nook of every genre for a new style — perhaps something to distinguish herself from her distinguished parents — but nothing seems to sound right.

That is not to say that the album can't be enjoyable. The one song written solely by Gainsbourg, "Le Chat Du Café Des Artistes," is the only one that sounds like her old work. It's vintage, 60's-spy-movie vibe is creepily entertaining.

Furthermore, the duet with Beck on "Heaven Can Wait" is cute and upbeat. It could easily have been an *Odelay* outtake. Nothing here is bad, just uninspired and often mediocre.

The standout track, however, is "Trick Pony." Smack dab in the middle of the album, Gainsbourg's vocals are breathy yet forceful, and the catchy call-and-response between her

voice and the churning guitar riff almost brings to mind Sergeant Pepper-era Beatles. It's too bad one must sit through the thoroughly boring "Time Of The Assassins" to get to it.

When music sometimes falls short, lyrics often pick up the slack. Sadly, Gainsbourg's wordplay is lackluster. The album was supposedly heavily influenced by the artist's experiences acting in the Lars von Trier horror film *Antichrist*, and the lyrics reflect a darker, more repressed idea than 5:55.

This motif is evident in songs like "Le Chat Du Café Des Artistes," "IRM" and "Greenwich Mean Time." More often than not, though, Gainsbourg's lyrics are oversimplified.



For example, on "Le Chat," she proclaims that "When you're dead, that means you're dead/ When we no longer live, it's that we no longer live." Thanks Charlotte, we figured that one out already.

The diversity of the songs is *IRM*'s saving grace. Had every song sounded like "Master's Hands," it would have been an utter disaster. While listening to the album feels slightly like being whacked in the skull by Beck's soundboard, there's no denying he made "Trick Pony" and "Looking Glass Blues" the winners that they are.

Again, this is not a bad album. It simply lacks originality and intrigue. Indeed, while its songs are often relaxing, *IRM* puts its listeners to sleep faster than counting sheep.

— Vivi Machi

ARTIST
The Magnetic Fields
ALBUM
Realism
LABEL
Nonesuch
RELEASED
Jan. 26, 2010

of the group with its campy vocal harmonies and short, sweet songs.

Stephin Merritt, the songwriter and de facto frontman of the group has spent that last decade of his musical existence in a dilemma.

After releasing the album *69 Lovesongs*, which was heralded as a new and groundbreaking departure from the industry norm (as promised in the title the album contains exactly 69 songs all about the same topic), the question became where does one go from here?

Realism sounds like the first record since *69 Lovesongs* on which Merritt is comfortable with his position as the lead singer and more importantly as the sole song-writer for the band.

The band's two previous releases capture a much more tense and agitated Merritt. On

Distortion in particular, Merritt seems to be almost at a loss for words and his vocals are drowned out among waves and waves of guitar feedback and distortion.

This is not the case on *Realism*, which hardly features any "electrical" instruments at all. In fact, the over-arching aesthetic is one of stripped-down folk, which works well with the use of minimal instrumentation.

Throughout the album the instruments of choice are acoustic guitars, accordions and different types of percussion. Perhaps this is the reason that Merritt seems more relaxed and laid-back, his voice moving through the songs in

an un-hurried, almost pedantic rhythm.

The first track off the album is arguably also the best. Titled "You Must Be Out of Your Mind," it contains cynical, hard bitten lyrics, "You can't go round just sayin' stuff because it's pretty/ and I no longer drink enough to think your witty."

These words are set against an upbeat pop song and the resulting composition is a short, bittersweet ditty that the Stones' Mick Jagger and Keith Richards would have been proud to pen.

There are a few weaker tracks on the album. "Better



Realism, the new album by Massachusetts-based pop quartet The Magnetic Fields, is its best album since 1999's seminal *69 Lovesongs*.

Billed as the last of the group's 'no-synth' trilogy, which also includes *i* (2004) and *Distortion* (2008), it is certainly the strongest

Things" is an acoustic ballad that comes off sounding more like a dirge and "Everything Is One Big Christmas Tree" achieves the impressive accomplishment of becoming more and more annoying each time one listens to it.

Although perhaps commercially not as recognized as he deserves to be, Merritt is without a doubt one of the great songwriters of his generation and *Realism* finds him returning to form.

Although there are a few weaker tracks, the majority of the album is composed of interesting and well-written songs. With its short, sweet melodies and stripped-down folk sounds, it accomplishes the trick of being musically "catchy" and also retaining a deeper resonance through the quality of the lyrics.

— Nathan Risinger

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Walters Museum features art of the messiah and the mind

By ALEC MEACHAM
For *The News-Letter*

If you're feeling particularly artsy this weekend, the Walters Art Museum is the place to be. While two of its current exhibits, "Beauty and the Brain: A Neural Approach to Aesthetics" and "The Christmas Story: Picturing the Birth of Christ in Medieval Manuscripts," don't have much common, they are certainly worth seeing nonetheless.

"Beauty and the Brain" is all at once an exhibit and experiment, its inspiration based on the connections between art and neuroscience.

In the information presented prior to entering the exhibit, the creators of the exhibit explain that this connection — while several centuries old — has only been recently explored, due to the new discoveries in research on the brain.

Aesthetics has been a hotly contested topic in the world of philosophy since the ancient Greeks. More recently it has entered into the study of psychology. Many of the most famous thinkers in human history have attempted to answer the same questions that this exhibit addresses.

However, with new advances

in technology — both in the art world and in neuroscience — we can attempt to find scientifically-based answers to the age-old debate: what is beauty and where do we find it?

In order to test this hypothesis, the exhibit asks its viewers to observe a series of sculptures by the French artist Jean Arp and to record their impressions.

The viewers or test subjects put on plastic 3-D glasses to look at eight panels, each containing about 20 or so variations on one sculpture.

Moving to the opposite end of the spectrum, the second exhibit, "The Christmas Story: Picturing the Birth of Christ in Medieval Manuscripts," is a sharp contrast to the modern technology employed in the aforementioned exhibit.

Although the featured manuscripts, discussing events surrounding Christ's birth, would certainly interest those familiar with Latin, the exhibit lacks some style and flair.

However, the coloration of some of the illustrations is beautifully done and the variety in the depiction of the Three Kings, the shepherds and other such characters is interesting.

Both of these exhibits continue on through the end of February.



Tom Chalkley, a member of the Hopkins illustration department, has gained local fame for his inventive and unique methods as a subjective cartographer.

Hopkins illustrator Chalkley talks Charm City

CARTOONIST, FROM B3

fondness for juxtaposing popular culture and fine art, an openness to amateurism.

Chalkley, however, does not consider himself a part of the Baltimore fine arts community.

"I've never been part of the art scene in Baltimore, the fine arts scene. I've been very, very peripheral to the fine arts scene, just because I've always been a cartoonist.

Whenever I've tried to be something more peripheral, it's been interesting but it's not meshed. But that said, this is a fantastic art town."

The desire to create the comprehensive map of the city didn't come from any particular attachment to the city's art scene, but rather from the charm and draw of the city itself, as well as a personal fascination with map art.

Chalkley has created a collection of maps, though the Baltimore map is his largest.

Of this artistic endeavor, he said, "I think it's a form of obsessive compulsive disorder. I think any really good art comes out

of a degree of obsession. I'm not saying anything I do is great art or anything like that but at least it does have the virtue of coming out of some obsessive compulsive place.

"If I were to put my finger on why I like maps, it's a way for a skinny, nerdy guy like me to feel dominion over a territory. I'll never be mayor and I don't want to be mayor but I can feel that I encompass the city somehow and I can interpret in a way by drawing cartoon maps."

He notes that many forget how subjective a map really is — what is shown on the map is only what the map maker chooses to show.

"So really what I love is that a map is a way to talk about the world. I showed this to a friend of mine and he said 'A map of faces, now there's a new idea.' I hadn't even thought of it as a new idea particularly."

"It was just kind of a natural outlet of what I do. But this map

is just an obsessive statement of what an interesting town this is."

Because the map features buildings and landmarks as well as faces, there is a display of knowledge of architectural drawing as well as figure illustration.

According to Chalkley, "you have to do a caricature of a building where you boil it down architecturally," a type of illustration skill that many would not consider when viewing the map initially.

To a Baltimore native, the final product of the map is a very true representation of a familiar and beloved city, achieved through humorous and polished illustration.

For Chalkley, Baltimore presents "avenues for artists here and some great opportunities, and a local ideology that I very much endorse of integrating art into communities. In sum, this is a great place to be an artist as long as you are willing to never

get rich. I love the lack of pretentiousness here. You can have a decent middle-class life as an artist here. It takes a certain amount of hustle to do so, but what doesn't?"

For students interested in pursuing illustration, he notes, "Here at Hopkins, we have a surprisingly good art program. Very few people seem to know it's here, but you can study drawing, painting, cartooning, visual reality, sculpture and photography."

"It's a great grounding, plus you have the Digital Media Center where you can get more into animation and design, so if someone were really interested in that they could do all that stuff."

"The problem is they can't get a degree in it here, just humanities credits. But there are people who have hopped from Hopkins to MICA to pursue that further. It's possible to get a good grounding in that stuff without leaving Baltimore."



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Walters Art Museum, located in the Mount Vernon area, showcases eclectic art.

Kwame Kwei-Armah: how arts can affect change

The playwright and actor sat down with *The News-Letter* before he heads to Centerstage

By PHYLLIS ZHU
For *The News-Letter*

British playwright, actor, singer and writer Kwame Kwei-Armah is coming to Baltimore's Pearlstone Theater Centerstage for the American debut of his play, *Let There Be Love*.

Though renowned for being the first black Briton to stage a production — *Elmina's Kitchen* — in London's West End, the mainstream theater district akin to New York's Broadway, Kwei-Armah is here as a community activist and arts advocate.

On Feb. 8, Kwei-Armah will give a talk on the artist's role in society, focusing specifically on how artists here in Baltimore can and should effect social change in the city rather than serving solely as "just entertainment."

Kwei-Armah, whose plays center on the struggles of the British African-Caribbean community, has had his own struggle with defining and accepting his African-Caribbean heritage.

Born Ian Roberts, the playwright began a genealogical study on his family's history when he reached adulthood. He traced his origins to the slave trade in Grenada.

He decided to change his name, he explained, to Kwame, meaning "born on Saturday," and Kwei-Armah, meaning "to find the way," so that his four children did not have to perpetuate the name of someone who had once owned his family.

Though born and raised in London, Kwei-Armah considers Baltimore his "second artistic home." He first came to Baltimore in 2005 and has since produced three major plays with Centerstage.

He claims that Baltimore is the place of his artistic birth as well as a key influence in his



COURTESY OF CENTERSTAGE

Kwei-Armah's life in Baltimore has influenced his playwrighting and community works.

evolution as an artist.

"The first time, I remember, I came over to Washington, D.C. to see August Wilson speak," he said.

"I jumped on a train the next day and came to Baltimore to see the play *Rag Time*, and began to write my very first play, *Elmina's Kitchen*, in the hotel. I didn't realize the bizarre idiosyncrasy until I came back to Baltimore."

When asked what his vision of Baltimore was, he cited some of the city's positive aspects but also acknowledged that improvements could be made by the artistic community.

"A certain section of Baltimore has been exposed to the world, a section which is not brilliant and not inspired," Kwei-Armah said. "Now when I tell my friends I'm going to Baltimore, they ask, 'Are you safe there?' because Baltimore is known through art and through [the TV show] *The Wire*."

"When I think of Baltimore, I see the Harbor and its connection to the city. I see Centerstage and its need to connect with

the city, and I see the audience, which is diverse, perhaps more diverse than anywhere I've been."

However, he added, "I don't know if I see the role the arts are playing in terms of social regeneration. I don't know if I see that celebrated."

For Kwei-Armah, the artist can play a much more political role than is assumed.

"Art should be seen and involved in a shifting society and not just be a mirror image of it," he said. "Artists can take a more active role in not just glamorizing the city [through their art] but actually leading it."

His play *Let There Be Love*, which premiered in London's Tricycle Theatre in 2008, follows the atypical romance between a young Polish maid and a cantankerous old man from Grenada, a relationship which Kwei-Armah describes as a romance between generations of immigrants.

The play makes its first U.S. appearance at Centerstage and runs from Feb. 10 through March 7.



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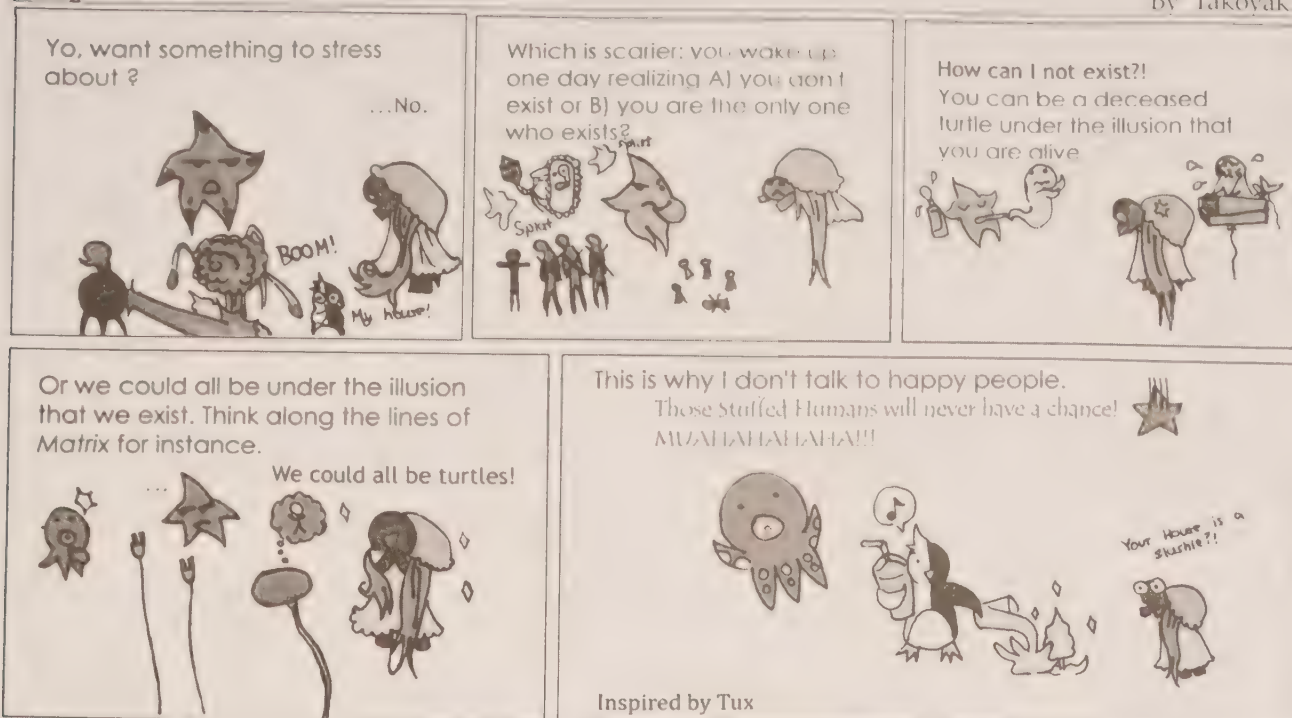
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CARTOONS, ETC.

Margin Notes



By Takoyaki

Marxist Ad Deemed Too 'Vulgar' for Big Game Spot

Headlines have been made in the lead up to the Super Bowl this year due to something that we don't always associate with the ultimate expression of American sports fanaticism or the Art House Cinema of Advertisements, as I personally enjoy referring to it. However, recently the *New York Times* printed a letter they had received from a Marxist in Iowa named Harold Scrimphner, which he had received from CBS concerning the broadcast of his ad.

It stated that CBS deemed his advertisement — a creative and engaging reproduction of the much quoted preamble to Marx and Engel's hallmark of counterculture *The Communist Manifesto* (reproduced below thanks to the hard work of some suicideinterns whom we shall

sorely miss) — "too vulgar for audiences." They went on to say that it "displayed material of a pornographic nature" and was "simply too much of a risk for us to take on."

Bremer

ard's Smile

arrondissement, he complained about the prospective advertisement advocating an anti-abortion stance, the political ads and the ad promising a lucrative sum in return for the head of an anti-abortion lobbyist.

While CBS said that they could only really find fault with the second of his examples, they still declined Scrimphner and Des Moines for Marx's. Their spot will instead be a 30 second picture of Slavoj Žižek medea co-itus with his underwear model partner.

Jeremy Bremer
Kierkegaard's Smile

Quentin and Sam



By Jane Yee

Cryptogram

By Katie Mann

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THE NAMES OF THESE 4 CAMPUS BUILDINGS STARTING WITH THE LETTER G?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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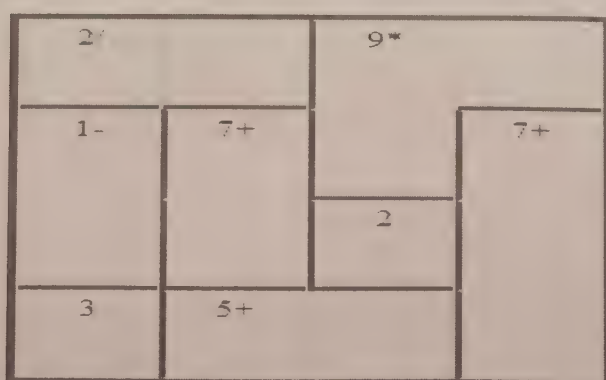
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www.webkendoku.com

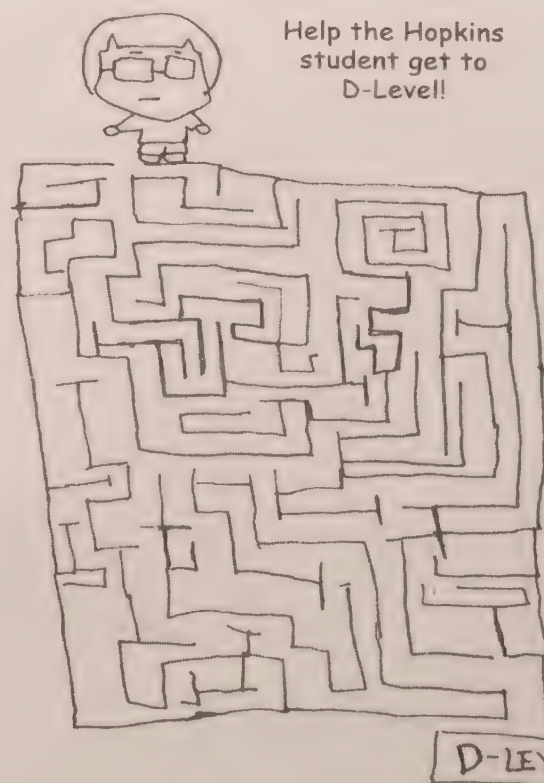


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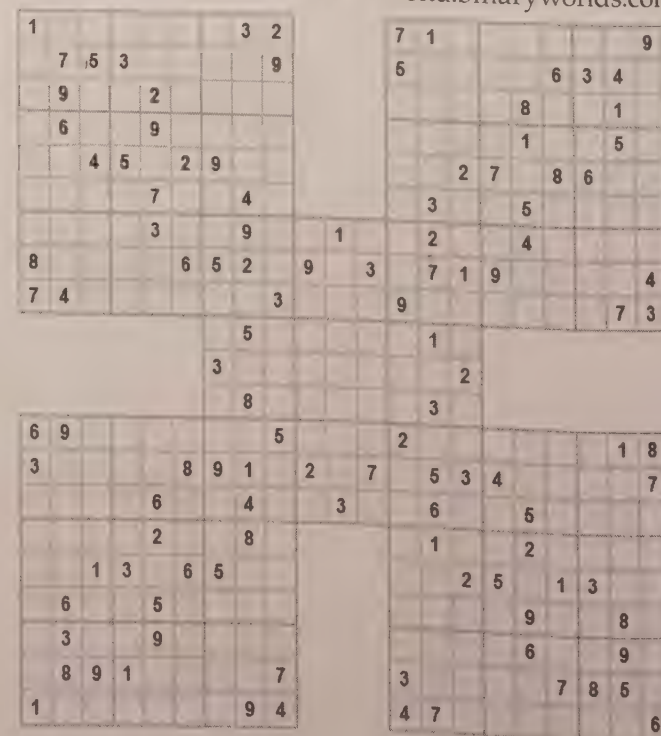
Last week, I found myself stuck in a broken elevator. Sad to say, but I got shafted.

News-Letter Game

Help the Hopkins
student get to
D-Levell



Challenging Sudoku(s) sudoku.binaryworlds.com



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Algae use fish-killing toxin to immobilize prey

By MO-YU ZHOU
Staff Writer

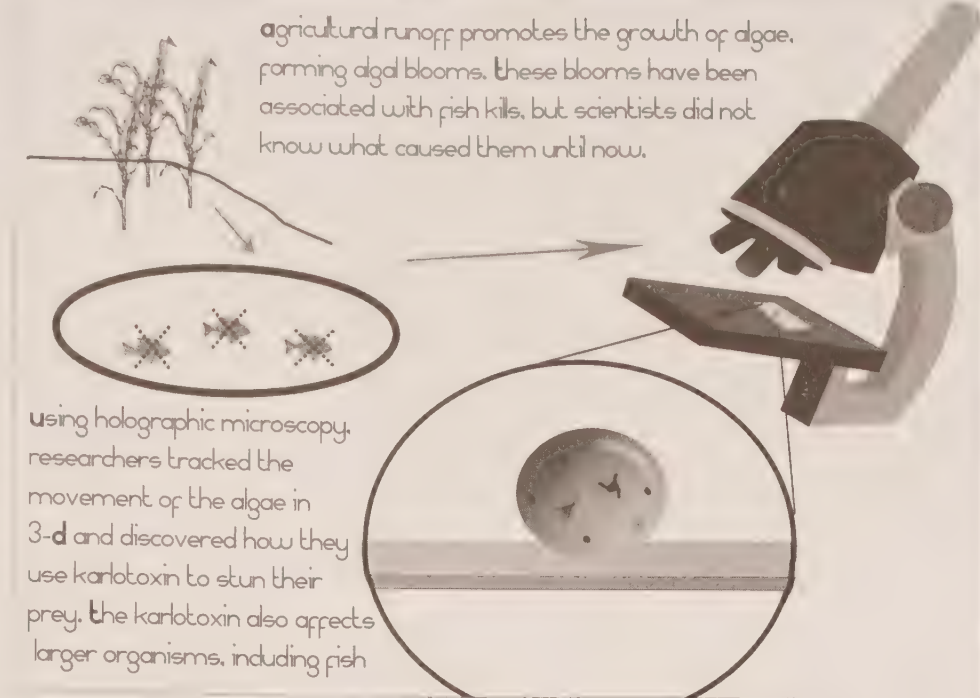
Toxins emitted by a certain form of algae have long been linked with fish deaths. As reported in a recently-published paper, researchers have discovered that these toxins are used for protective purposes, and are also involved in attacking the algae's prey.

The paper, published in the Jan. 14 edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, was a collaborative effort between scientists from Hopkins, the University of Minnesota, the University of Hawaii and the University of Maryland.

Millions of dollars are spent every year in an attempt to control toxins emitted by algae known as dinoflagellates, which can kill large fish populations. "Harmful algal blooms are a major environmental problem," said Joseph Katz, the William F. Ward Senior Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Hopkins. "They appear and disappear, and we don't understand the dynamics behind it."

The increasing incidence of algae blooms has been largely due to increased use of agricultural fertilizers. When these nutrient-rich compounds run into nearby streams and waterways, algae populations are able to grow at an explosive rate.

This study shed light on the issue by studying the behavior of the dinoflagellate *Karlodinium veneficum* in the Chesapeake Bay, although such cells and their toxins are found in waterways worldwide. The toxin released by this particular dinoflagellate is known as karlotoxin, and is used



using holographic microscopy, researchers tracked the movement of the algae in 3-D and discovered how they use karlotoxin to stun their prey. The karlotoxin also affects larger organisms, including fish

to stun the algae's prey, which is another type of algae.

However, the toxin is also capable of targeting the gills of fish. When *K. veneficum* forms in large blooms, karlotoxin spreads immediately, resulting in harmful effects on life in estuaries around the globe.

"When the prey comes near the predator, it is affected by the toxin," Katz said. "We don't know if it requires contact or if it just needs to be nearby, but the prey becomes immobilized."

The researchers used high-speed digital holographic microscopy to measure the swim-

ming behavior of strains of *K. veneficum* when mixed with their prey, *Stomatolula major*. Traditional microscopes can only image organisms in one plane, and for three-dimensional environments like marine ecosystems, they have not allowed for the effective study of algae, which can quickly swim out of the plane of focus.

"The depth of focus in [traditional] microscopic systems is very shallow, so that when a microorganism is brought into focus it is very unlikely that while swimming in a three-dimensional environment, surrounding

creatures will also be in focus," said Edwin Malkiel, an associate research scientist in the Hopkins Department of Mechanical Engineering.

"If you have a digital holographic microscope and if you have a cloud of these organisms, we can track each one of them simultaneously," Katz, who helped to develop the technology, said.

Holographic microscopy creates three-dimensional images using a laser light to illuminate the sample and capture how the light is scattered, known as diffraction patterns.

"This diffraction pattern is digitally reconstructed to provide the in-focus images at any depth in the volume, so it is used to distinguish a sample of mixed species by morphology as well as provide the instantaneous three-dimensional locations of all the organisms," Malkiel said.

Results from the imaging showed that the algae's prey became immobile at a rate corresponding to the potency and amount of the karlotoxins produced. Therefore, it was concluded that the strains of algae used

SEE ALGAE, PAGE B9



COURTESY OF WWW.VISUALVOICES.ORG
Visual Voices painting sessions encourage creativity and build communication skills.

Visual Voices program studies needs of Baltimore's children

By ALEENA LAKHANPAL
Staff Writer

Bill Cosby once co-hosted a show called "Kids Say the Darndest Things!" For half an hour, Cosby would ask open-ended questions to young children to see how they would respond. Naturally, the kids would say "the darndest things," but whatever they said was essentially true and moreover, often reflected the environment in which they were growing up.

Dr. Michael Yonas, a graduate of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, used a similar concept to better understand the needs of at-risk children in low-income communities through the Visual Voices program.

However, instead of filming the children as they spoke, Yonas and his colleagues provided the children with artistic outlets such as writing and painting.

Kids from eight to 15 years old sketched their perceptions of the world around them as well as what they wanted to accomplish in the future. The details in the paintings and written works provided a qualitative means of studying the health and safety needs of these children.

Yonas began Visual Voices in 1993 as a fun project for low-income Pittsburgh community children. Before his training at Bloomberg, he was an artist and often worked on projects aimed at exposing kids to art.

At the beginning, the program was inconsistent because Yonas could only run it when he had sold enough paintings. At one point, he received partial funding from the Justice Department.

When Yonas came to Hopkins, a faculty member took an interest in Visual Voices, originally as part of a dating violence prevention program. Eventually the project became the community participatory research program it is now.

"This is an attempt for kids who don't have an opportunity to express themselves as adults do; giving them this program is giving them an effective tool to express themselves," Yonas said.

The children are engaged in painting, writing, drawing and discussion. Yonas described it as an "intense focus group." Although lately the issues discussed have concerned the health and safety of the surrounding neighborhood, the children are not limited to discussing their environment.

The coordinator remembers one time where "the kids were so

SEE VOICES, PAGE B9

iPad brings all-in-one computing to next level

Everyone is talking about the iPad. You might know it as this year's floor theme of Wolman 3 East, but it's more likely you know it as the latest iThing from Apple, unveiled by Steve Jobs at the special press event last week.

Since its announcement, everyone's been trying to get a piece of it, whether through praise or denouncement.

Incredibly, Stephen Colbert, host of the *Colbert Report* pulled one out during the Grammy Awards.

Let's cover the basics quickly here so we can get to the good stuff. The iPad sports a 9.7 inch capacitive touch IPS display, a custom 1GHz processor, and for lack of a better description, looks like a giant iPod Touch.

Pricing is \$499 for the 16GB Wifi-only model. For \$100 more you can get a 32GB model. Another \$100 will fetch the 64GB Wifi model.

Adding 3G wireless is an extra \$130, and data plan options are \$15/month for 250MB of data and \$30/month for unlimited.

The iPad operates on the iPhone OS and is backwards-compatible with nearly all of the apps on the iTunes Store.

Additionally, Apple unveiled the iBookStore, which will offer ebooks in the ePub format.

Now we move to the good stuff. Most of you think that you've made up your mind about the iPad.

However, I'm not here to pass judgment on a device that is still two months away from market.

But that's not to say that I can't have some predictions and thoughts on the matter.

So let's look at a few comparisons.

While many have compared the iPad to the Kindle, I find the comparison to be both unfair and somewhat irrelevant.

Some have pulled out the



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Steve Jobs unveiled Apple's latest creation last week, priced at \$829 for a fully loaded version.

computer-typewriter analogy, saying that the Kindle is a single-feature device, while the iPad does what the Kindle can do while performing myriad other tasks (albeit not at the same time due to the lack of multitasking support).

Yes, the Kindle has e-ink going for it, and it has a longer battery life.

But the iPad's color IPS screen (a type of LED screen), though 'worse' than e-ink, provides rich color content and the possibility for print media to remake itself using interactive content that the Kindle can't hope to achieve.

Furthermore, its IPS screen, which stands for 'in plane switching,' equates to larger viewing angles, more colors and more accurate

colors. It is a more advanced display technology than that found in typical desktop monitors and laptop displays, which is called TFT or TFT-matrix.

Sure, it's not an LED or OLED screen as some had hoped, but whether that matters will be determined when consumers start getting their hands on the iPad come March.

So the Kindle is simply no contest. But a tablet announced at the Consumer Electronics Show may be in a position to rival the iPad.

From hardware manufacturer MSI comes a 10-inch tablet. It will run the Android OS from Google, with a Tegra 2 under the hood, which means that from a raw power standpoint it should match up nicely with the iPad's processor.

This is going to hit the market around middle of 2010, and at \$500, it lines right up with the iPad and says, "Howdy!"

Android is also getting Flash support down the road, which the iPad does not have, and if Steve Jobs's words are to be believed, Flash is not coming anytime soon if Apple has its way.

The one big feature Apple has that virtually no other company can match is the Apple media and PR machine.

Since last September, rumors began anew of an Apple tablet launch. And the intense buildup has not gone unnoticed.

Perhaps this quote from the *Wall Street Journal* sums it up best: "Last time there was this much excitement about a tablet, it

SEE IPAD, PAGE B9

Survey of study participants fuels ethics debate

By CELESTE LIPKES
Staff Writer

We've all seen the fliers advertising medical research studies. They litter Hopkins' bulletin boards. Besides briefly explaining what the studies will involve — participants viewing images while undergoing an fMRI, volunteers taking an experimental drug to help them quit smoking, etc. — the fliers usually advertise some sort of monetary incentive for the participants.

Reimbursement for parking fees and childcare is common, as is compensation for injuries incurred during the study. But more controversially, many studies also offer other types of payment such as remuneration (where volunteers are compensated monetarily for the time and inconvenience) and inducement (money as an incentive to encourage more participants).

These latter payments raise a number of ethical questions. Can large inducements cause participants to conceal information that would otherwise disqualify them from research? What is an appropriate amount of money to compensate participants involved in a 12-week study? A 12-week study that puts their health at risk? A 12-month study?

Though there are a lot of opinions in the medical field, researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine and the Berman Institute of Bioethics were particularly interested to know what the study participants felt was appropriate payment.

Researchers designed four hypothetical studies that varied in the risk entailed and time required, from testing HIV drug interactions to examining experimental drugs for malaria, and asked 60 healthy volunteers to estimate the pay-

ment they would receive for participating in the study.

The researchers found a demographic trend: males, nonwhites, participants with children and participants with more than a high school education all listed higher payment estimates than other groups.

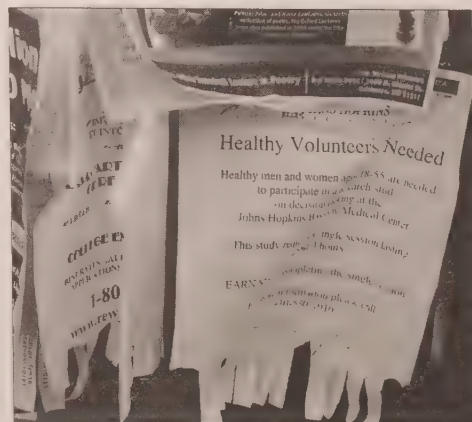
In addition, when volunteers were asked what their payments should be based on, 90 percent of participants discussed the logistics of the study, including the inconvenience of hospital visits, blood draws, medications, etc. 65 percent of volunteers also mentioned medical risks, including drug side effects and physical pain, as an additional category.

Though many participants seemed concerned about medical risks, their actual estimates of appropriate payments stressed time and inconvenience over potential physical side effects.

For example, though investigators considered a hypothetical trial drug study to be an intermediate medical risk, participants estimated a lower level of payment because the study was relatively short.

Why are volunteers more aware of time commitments than medical risks? Participants may have expectations that university researchers will not expose them to extremely high-risk studies, or volunteers might not have the medical knowledge required to assess risk.

Choosing to participate in a



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Research study participation is heavily advertised to students.

study is a more complex decision than it may seem: Researchers have previously suggested that subjects design a sort of "personal bank account" where the positive and negative features of the study are integrated, or that volunteers will only agree to a study if the benefits outweigh the costs.

Though the exact decision making process is unclear, researchers were reassured by the discovery that even in their small sampling, the participants' assessments of payment costs followed along the same lines as those of the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB also stresses time and burden — not medical risks — when deciding participant payment.

Though the IRB does make this recommendation, there is very little consistency across institutions when deciding fair payment. Perhaps after sampling a wider spectrum of volunteers, the participants' opinions will be used to create a payment outline that will guide investigators across the country when assessing volunteer compensation for medical studies.

Psychological injuries on the rise in war zones

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

A study performed by researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine and published on Jan. 22 in *The Lancet* shows that the leading causes of medical evacuations of army personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan are due to a variety of non-combat-related injuries.

The team of six, four of whom were Hopkins-affiliated, was headed by Steven Cohen, an associate professor of anesthesiology at the School of Medicine. They extensively analyzed a list of medically evacuated personnel who were taken to a treatment facility in Germany over a four-year period from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (based in Afghanistan).

Many variables were investigated by the team to show trends in who was evacuated and who returned to duty. These included branches of the armed forces, battle or non-battle-related injuries, type of non-battle related injuries, year, sex, rank and which war was being fought.

In Iraq, five percent of all service members were medically evacuated and of these, only one-fifth returned for duty. In Afghanistan, a comparable six percent of service members were evacuated, but a significantly higher proportion returned to serve at 34 percent.

Furthermore, if a person was taken back home to the United States for treatment, it was very unlikely that that person would return to duty: Fewer than one percent did. The researchers found that the closer to the battlefield a person was treated, the more likely they would return to duty.

The most important statistic

was that for all four years investigated, non-battle-related injuries always outnumbered battle injuries as the cause for evacuation, with battle-related injuries peaking at just 27 percent of all injuries in 2007.

Also, 96 percent of people evacuated due to battle injuries did not return, yet only 72 percent of those who left for non-battle-related reasons did not return.

Of the non-battle-related injuries, the most prevalent included musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders, neurological disorders and psychiatric disorders. The researchers noted that if a person left for one of these reasons, they were less likely to return. More people came back to serve if they had left for one of the less prevalent non-battle reasons such as chest pain, genitourinary disorders and gastrointestinal disorders.

Furthermore, the proportion of people being evacuated for a medical reason remained remarkably steady for all four years, with one exception. Over that period, the proportion of people being evacuated for a psychiatric disorder sharply increased from five to 14 percent.

In Iraq, the increase in psy-



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Many soldiers returning from war leave with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries.

chiatric disorders went from 32 percent from 2004-2005 down to three percent for 2005-2006 and then climbed to 62 percent for 2006-2007. In Afghanistan the changes were even more peculiar, with occurrences of psychiatric disorders actually decreasing for the first two years before soaring by 225 percent.

This occurred despite the fact that the armed forces increased the number of psychiatrists in the combat zone. The researchers hypothesize that this increase could be due to the cumulative impact of multiple deployments and a negative shift in public opinion towards the wars.

The proportion of people evacuated according to service branch across both wars were

consistent, but a significantly higher percentage of people serving in the army and air force returned to duty than for those serving in the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines.

More men were evacuated for medical reasons from both wars than women, but a higher proportion of men did not return to fight. Additionally, more senior officers returned to duty than junior officers. The researchers attributed this to feelings of increased responsibility and investment in the military, as well as the less physically-demanding nature of higher-ranking positions.

The rates of people returning to war were lowest for those diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries (14 percent) and mood disorders, such as depression, stress reaction, bipolar disorder and substance abuse at just six percent.

The researchers also noted changes between the major causes of medical evacuation between the two current wars and the First and Second World Wars, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. The most prevalent causes for leaving duty in these previous conflicts were respiratory and infectious disease. Mental illnesses in particular were not as significant in any of these previous wars as they are today.

The researchers also recognized that a significant limitation of their work was that the list of personnel was taken from a medical treatment center in Germany and could not account for personnel treated in the combat zone.

But they maintained that their research uncovered the need to focus on non-battle-related injuries, especially the growing problem of psychiatric disorders and their consequences.

Immunosuppressant drug halts kidney cyst formation

By ANN WANG
Science and Technology Editor

Researchers from UC Santa Barbara and Hopkins have shown that an immunosuppressant drug called rapamycin could be effective against polycystic kidney disease (PKD).

PKD affects 12.5 million people around the world and is one of the most prevalent genetically inherited diseases. Over the patient's lifetime, multiple fluid-filled cysts form in the kidneys, replacing the healthy tissue and greatly enlarging the kidneys.

Complications include infected or ruptured cysts, urinary tract infections, liver failure and damage to other organs. About half of patients with autosomal dominant (AD) PKD experience kidney failure before the age of 50. There is currently no way to halt the formation of cysts.

Previous research done at UC Santa Barbara had shown that a molecular pathway called mTOR is fairly inactive in healthy kidney cells, but highly active in cells that surround the cysts of patients with PKD. They then showed that the drug rapamycin, known to inhibit the mTOR pathway and currently used as an immunosuppressant during kidney transplants, halted cyst formation.

However, this research was done in mice where the mTOR pathway was not activated in the same way as it is in humans with the disease. The mouse model had genetic mutations that led to mTOR activation and PKD, but these mutations were not in the Pkd1 or Pkd2 genes, which lead to the onset of the disease in humans. The scientists were not sure if their results with rapamycin would translate to humans.

Scientists working at Hopkins then developed a new mouse model with a mutation in the Pkd1 gene. The researchers were able to produce results with rapamycin in this new model that more closely resembled what happens in humans.

"We have now established that the kidney cysts caused by inac-

tivation of Pkd1, the same gene affected in human ADPKD patients, correlates with activation of the mTOR pathway," Jonathan Shillingford, a project scientist at UCSB and lead author of the paper, said. "Taken together, our data demonstrate that rapamycin treatment is effective in a mouse model of Pkd that resembles the human disease process."

Rapamycin not only slowed and stopped the formation of new cysts, but also caused existing cysts to shrink in size. Specifically, by disrupting the mTOR pathway, the drug both halted proliferation of the epithelial cells lining the cysts and induced apoptosis and shedding of those cells.

In mice treated with rapamycin, the overall kidney size decreased and kidney failure was prevented. Researchers hypothesized that the cyst-lining epithelial cells need the mTOR pathway to be active to signal for proliferation and survival, and so are sensitive to rapamycin.

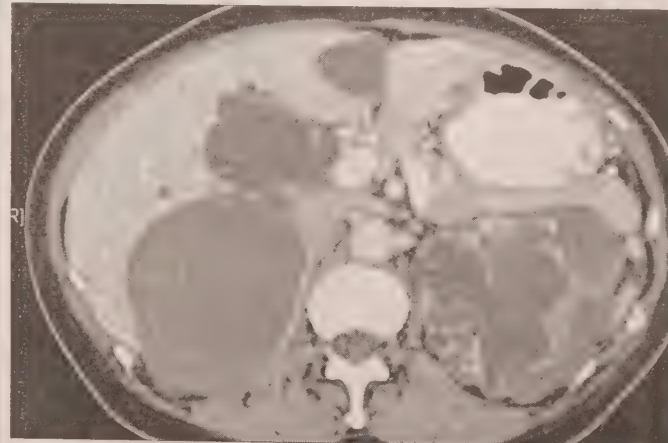
These results may be significant for the more than 600,000 Americans who suffer from some form of PKD.

"At present no effective drug therapies exist for human AD-PKD patients," Shillingford said. "Since rapamycin is already an FDA-approved drug for use in an organ transplant setting, it has the potential to become the first treatment for human PKD."

Although the drug is currently being studied in five separate clinical trials, there are still significant issues as to when and if the drug can be used to treat humans.

"This class of drugs has important toxicities that must be considered," Gregory Germino, one of the Hopkins scientists who developed the new mouse model, said.

"We have to balance the risks of a lifetime of therapy with this class of drugs — slow-healing of wounds, lipid abnormalities, proteinuria, immunosuppressive effects, to name just some — versus [the] potential benefit of slowing cyst growth."



COURTESY OF WWW.ISPUB.COM
For people with PKD, kidneys are riddled with cysts and become very enlarged.

Immune compounds start cycle of destruction

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

Autoimmune disease rates are on the rise, and as such it is becoming increasingly important to analyze and understand the mechanisms behind such illnesses.

Autoimmune diseases arise when the body's defenses attack one's own cells and tissues, instead of just the harmful, foreign invaders that they are supposed to target. This leads to inflammation of and damage to the besieged tissue.

According to estimates by the National Institutes of Health, more than seven percent of Americans suffer from some type of autoimmune disease. Although nearly 100 such diseases have been identified, researchers suspect that nearly 40 more have an autoimmune basis.

Compiling a wide range of information about such diseases can be especially useful, and this is where scientists like John Hall and Antony Rosen of the Department of Rheumatology at the Hopkins School of Medicine come in.

Hall and Rosen have summarized much of the work on autoimmune responses, specifically the studies relating to the activity of certain immune factors, called interferons.

Interferons come in three types, but Hall and Rosen have specifically looked at type I interferons, which seem to be implicated in certain autoimmune disorders such as systemic lupus erythematosus, myositis, Sjögren's syndrome, systemic sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

In these disorders, initial immune responses against invading pathogens naturally leads to cell death and tissue destruction as a consequence of the body's inclination to rid itself of potentially harmful particles. However, this inevitable step in the immune response is exacerbated by interferon signaling.

Interferons are proteins released by dying cells to warn their neighbors of the presence of pathogens. When the nearby cells receive the interferon message, they amplify their immune responses.

Interferons can facilitate the maturation of immune cells that can go on to fight infectious agents, and can increase cells' susceptibility to apoptosis, or planned cell death, which is especially helpful for eliminating

virus-infected cells.

The Hopkins researchers discovered that these type I interferons create a vicious feed-forward loop of autoimmune progression. As more of the host tissue is destroyed or damaged by the initial immune response, the autoimmune response is triggered and amplified, leading to a spiral of increasing autoimmune attacks and increasing tissue and cell damage.

Interferons themselves are not necessarily harmful and are actually quite necessary for effective immune responses against invading viral or bacterial agents. Some interferons inhibit viral replication, keeping viral infections at bay, while other interferons can respond to other stimuli, such as bacterial antigens.

The very requirements imposed upon the immune system — namely, responding quickly, effectively and robustly to foreign antigens — open up possibilities for inappropriate immune responses. This is exactly the case when looking at type I interferon-mediated autoimmune disorders.

Despite all their necessary contributions to the immune system, in people with autoimmune diseases, the researchers found that interferons also lead to the up-regulation of auto-antigens. Increased numbers of these particles floating around in tissues leads, naturally, to further autoimmune responses.

Worse yet, interferons help promote the viability of immune cells. In normal infections, this means that these cells can survive and function for longer periods of time, allowing for effective and longer term immune resistance and responses.

When the immune system recognizes the body itself as pathogenic, however, the effect is highly detrimental to the overall state of the organism and is a potential source of the strong self-propagation and amplification seen in autoimmune disorders and diseases.

There is, however, good news. Autoimmune responses (especially the production of auto-antibodies), while often produced as a natural result of the feed-forward interferon pathways, do not always inevitably lead to fully fledged autoimmune disorders.

In fact, when treatments that help to promote interferon responses come to an end, so too usually do autoimmune symp-

ptoms. That is to say, there is more to the development of irreversible autoimmune disorders than just interferon activity.

Nevertheless, interferons are very important immune response regulators, and blocking their effects can help to alleviate some of the symptoms and effects of autoimmunity. For example, by blocking interferon-recognizing receptors, the significant downstream effects and self-amplification of the signal can be reduced or eliminated, relieving the autoimmunity.

Thus, even though autoimmune responses and illnesses may be on the rise, this problem is a treatable one that doctors and scientists alike will hopefully be better able to address in the future as a result of the efforts of Hall and Rosen, as well as those of their colleagues.

Mercury exposure may increase susceptibility to diseases

By TIFFANY NG
Science and Technology Editor

Mercury has often been implicated as the culprit for a variety of health issues, from being a possible source of developmental disorders like autism, due to the mercury preservative in vaccines, to being potentially toxic for tuna-ingesting sushi-lovers.

And though mercury poisoning often receives much of the publicity, it is a little known fact that mercury, in the form found in marine wildlife and in many workplaces, can cause severe autoimmune responses and even increase the body's susceptibility to infectious diseases.

"Research on mercury as an immunotoxic agent is relatively new, and these are the first studies to demonstrate effects on immune modulation in humans," said Ellen Silbergeld, the senior author of the study and a professor of Environmental Health Studies at Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Mercury exposure can occur in a variety of settings, and the researchers first started considering the relationship between the immune system and mercury after studying Amazonian gold miners who use the metal.

According to Silbergeld, one of the red flags that triggered their hypothesis was the increased inci-

dence of malaria in the miners and others living in this region. "We've shown associations between mercury exposures and increased susceptibility to malarial infections in both experimental models and human populations."

When mice were exposed to inorganic mercury, the researchers found that it changed the pattern of cytokine release, which are compounds that func-

National and international actions are long overdue to reduce inputs of mercury into the environment.

— ELLEN SILBERGELD, RESEARCHER

tion as signaling molecules in the immune system. Mercury exposure caused more pro-inflammatory cytokines and fewer anti-inflammatory cytokines to be released.

"There is evidence that mercury can increase risks of both autoimmune disease and certain infectious diseases," Silbergeld said. "These consequences may involve a set of fundamental mechanisms in which the pro-inflammatory response is not counterbalanced."

This imbalance could increase inflammation when the organism is exposed to infectious disease agents. Increased inflammatory responses could

in turn raise the risk of susceptibility to infectious diseases. Additionally, for people with autoimmune disorders, mercury exposure could further worsen their conditions.

Other research suggests a correlation between mercury exposure, inflammation and cardiovascular disease. This is only one of many possible instances in which mercury may play a role in the development of chronic diseases.

Genetic factors may also play a role in an individual's immune response to mercury exposure. When genetically susceptible mice were exposed to mercury, they developed an autoimmune

disease similar to lupus. "Given the importance of genetics in immunobiology, this may be an important area of research in understanding differences in population responses to mercury," Silbergeld said.

Although much more research needs to be done to investigate the mechanism behind this phenomenon, Silbergeld hypothesizes that mercury acts on a certain

type of receptor, known as the TLR4 receptor, to alter the release of cytokines.

Even low levels of mercury were enough to generate this immune response, and the amounts used in the experiment were well within the range of mercury exposure in the United States.

"Mercury is a highly toxic agent, in all its forms — not just methyl mercury, which is the major form to which we are exposed," Silbergeld said. She also stresses that stricter regulations should be put into place to reduce our exposure, which frequently occurs in the form of fish consumption.

"There is certainly an important need for individuals to evaluate their own exposure risks and to consume fish prudently, but even more importantly, national and international actions are long overdue to reduce inputs of mercury into the environment that result in contamination of fish," she said.

This study puts the notion of mercury toxicity in a very different light, by suggesting that it may specifically target the immune system in order to inflict damage. "The concept that environmental toxicants could modify human immune response opens up new areas for research on these types of complex interactions," Silbergeld said.

iPad blows Amazon's Kindle out of the water

IPAD, FROM PAGE B7
had some commandments written on it."

The iPad will hit the market running, with thousands of apps waiting to be used. This includes the Kindle app, which will give it access to the entirety of Amazon's catalogue of offerings in addition to the iBookStore.

It's very likely that the iPod Touch and the iPhone were merely training wheels for the iPad. It's clear that Apple's agenda is out, and the iPad is certainly making its statement in bold. With no stylus input, the iPad is solely dependent on your fingers.

On the flip side, Apple's system of content delivery is a closed one, where apps are only allowed to exist when approved, and Apple maintains complete control over your experience.

Many have taken issue with the consumer's inability to customize their experience with Apple hardware or the applications of their choosing. To solve this problem, some consumers invented jailbreaking. Jailbroken iPod Touches and iPhones are able to run any code or app, regardless of whether it has been approved by Apple.

Some see this closed development environment as a fundamental problem, one that will lead to big problems for Apple down the road.

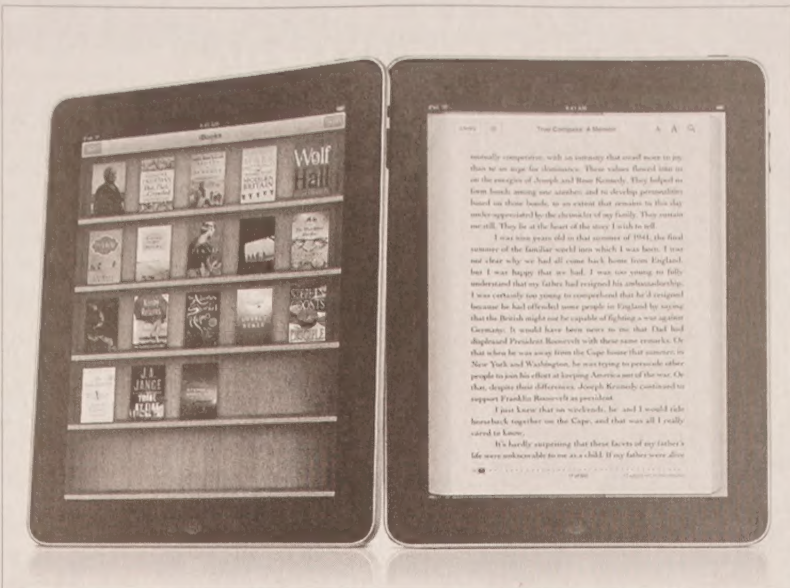
However, as long as the experience that Apple delivers is one that consumers embrace, Apple will continue down its current path. The phenomenal success of the iPhone has occurred largely due to the well-crafted experience that Apple has created.

This brings us full circle back to the Kindle. Out of all this mess of commentary and media buzz, I have concluded that the Kindle is all but gone if it doesn't undergo a huge revision.

Apple has come to the party with a total package experience,

while the Kindle is a single function tool. If you look at them side by side, you are liable to mistake the Kindle for a product invented decades before the iPad.

Yes, Apple is here, combining the Ebook reader, smartphone and laptop into a connected, easy-to-use device. I, for one, am very interested in seeing just how the computing industry will be changed, yet again, in response to the latest iThing that Apple has spouted out.



COURTESY OF WWW.APPLE.COM
With the iBooks app, Apple continues to encroach on Amazon's share of the digital print media market.

Three-dimensional imaging pinpoints toxin

ALGAE, FROM B7
karlotoxins to stun, and then ingest, their prey.

"Karlotoxins are complicated molecules," Katz said. "So why are those organisms making them?" In the past, they have been thought of as a defense mechanism of the algae. "We found a totally different use of the toxins, and not only found it, but proved it conclusively. These toxins are used as a predation product," he said.

Together, the researchers may have uncovered new ways of

investigating and slowing the growth of these algal blooms to mitigate their impact on surrounding aquatic life.

"I believe holographic imaging technology will help us understand how harmful blooms are maintained, through studies of organism behavior in the laboratory and in... its imaging of blooms," Malkiel said.

"I also hope it will lead to an appreciation of the complexity of life on the microscale, because there is indeed an amazing world of interactions in each drop of water."

Digital holographic microscopy has the potential of revolutionizing microscopy.

— JOSEPH KATZ, RESEARCHER

In terms of future environmental practices, reducing the population of the algae's prey by restoring the eastern oyster population may help to reduce the amount of karlotoxin in the waters and mitigate its detrimental effects on the Bay's marine life.

Additionally, the use of digital holographic microscopy has important implications not only for marine biology, but for nearly every other field of science, adding another dimension to commonly used imaging techniques.

"The applications of this technology go beyond the specific organisms in this study," Katz said. "Digital holographic microscopy has the potential of revolutionizing microscopy."

— Additional reporting by Tiffany Ng

Researchers identify problems at home by analyzing kids' art

VOICES, FROM B7
hungry, so we talked about our favorite lunch meats, instead."

The program is a unique approach to community participatory research, but it is not art therapy. However, Yonas is highly supportive of the use of art in Visual Voices. "Everyone experiences art in any capacity," Yonas said. "It transcends physical disability, language barriers, age, anything. And anyone can participate in a discussion."

For the kids, Visual Voices is also a safe place to reflect on the events in their lives, and Yonas loves the open channel of communication. Parents often also participate; their only rule is that they are not allowed to tell the children what to paint or draw.

The kids themselves are of all ages and come from different ethnic backgrounds. Yonas explained that there is no screening process to be able to join the program, but because it is a research project, the parents of the children involved have to sign consent forms.

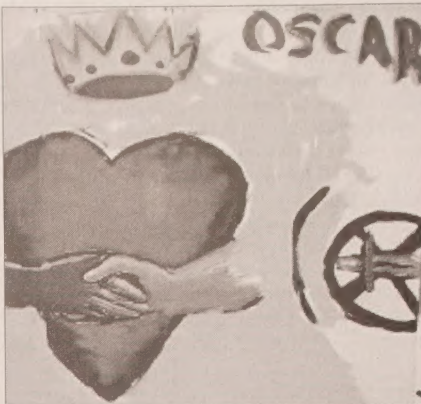
Once the children have completed their drawings or stories, they have the option to donate their work to a large collage-like exhibit. Yonas cuts the drawings thematically; for instance, if one child has painted a house and another child has painted a person, he might cut out the house and put the cut-out person at the door.

"I'm careful not to butcher the kids' pieces, if I see a little man in a picture I make sure I don't chop off a limb," Yonas said of the artistic process. He glazes stories onto acrylic plates and puts them over

the collaged drawings, which are displayed in various children's museums across the nation.

In addition to being displayed in these exhibits, the information from the drawings and stories has been systematically gathered as a representation of the community. The findings have not only been published in a scholarly paper, but have been reported to police departments to improve communication between the community and the official force.

Andrea Gielen and Bernard Guyer, both from the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Bloomberg School of Health, have been involved in the program in Baltimore and have led the way for data collection and sorting. Yonas also acknowledged the participation of the Clinical and



COURTESY OF WWW.VISUALVOICES.ORG
Paintings can reveal clues to risky behavioral problems.

Translational Science Institute at the Pittsburgh University School of Medicine.

Together, they hope to bring the program to new places and new demographics, including senior citizens. "It's not your typical research," Yonas said. "We take care of all of the ethics and see how it's a great research tool, but it's totally, really fun."

NASA to launch Endeavor shuttle

The space shuttle Endeavor is scheduled to launch at 4:39 EST on Feb. 7 from the Kennedy Space Center. Six astronauts will be taking part in this STS-130 mission. The crew includes five men and one woman.

The main objectives of the 13-day mission are to deliver a new room and an observation portal to the International Space Station (ISS). The delivery of the new room — called the Tranquility module — is a major step forward for the ISS and will leave the station 90 percent complete.

The launch this Sunday will be the first of five shuttle missions planned for 2010, which are also the last five shuttle missions Endeavor's fleet will ever make.

NASA plans to retire Endeavor and its two sister space shuttles, Atlantis and Discovery, in September of this year. Altogether, this fleet will have made a total of 134 flights since the first mission in 1981. The fleet will be replaced by new Orion spacecrafts propelled by Ares rockets.

Custody battle ignites over meteorite

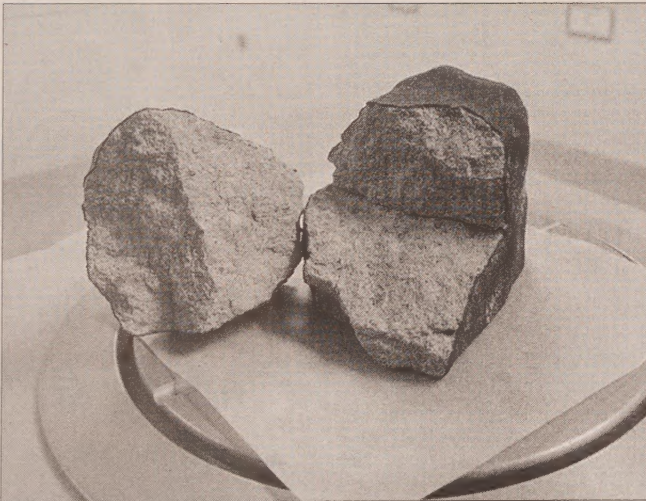
A meteorite has become the unlikely center of a property rights debate. The meteorite crashed through the roof and landed in the examining room of a doctors' office in Lorton, Virginia in January.

The two doctors who run the family practice, Marc Gallini and Frank Ciampi, donated the meteorite to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

However, the landlords of the building that the offices were located in are now claiming that the meteorite is theirs because it landed in their property.

The chondrite meteorite weighs about half a pound and was the size of a fist before it cracked into pieces on impact. Chondrite meteorites are the most common kind found on earth.

However, this Lorton meteorite is unusually valuable not only



COURTESY OF WWW.METEORITESUSA.COM
This chondrite meteorite crashed through the roof of two doctors' offices in Virginia.

because of the circumstances of its fall, but also because of its recent impact. It has not yet been weathered and eroded by Earth's processes and thus offers scientists more insight into the circumstances of its formation.

For now, the 4.5 billion year old meteorite remains in the Smithsonian.

Supercomputers allow sharing of early-universe simulations

Supercomputer simulations are an invaluable tool in modeling the early universe. Until now, astrophysicists have had to travel to supercomputing clusters to view them, limiting their usefulness.

For the first time, scientists were able to stream a simulation online of how dark matter behaved during the universe's birth. Scientists in Portland, Oregon were able to watch in real time as the simulation was carried out in a supercomputer cluster in Chicago, Illinois.

The roughly 150 terabytes of data was streamed at a speed of 10 gigabytes per second and displayed on a large-scale tiled display in Portland.

The purpose of the simulation was to see how well researchers could measure subtle differences in density in intergalactic gas, specifically by detecting Baryon

Acoustic Oscillations. This breakthrough opens up the possibility of long-distance collaborations between physicists who do not physically have access to these powerful supercomputer clusters.

Obama puts space travel in hands of private industry

On Monday, President Obama submitted his federal budget request for 2011, in which he transfers much of the responsibility of sending astronauts to and from the International Space Station to private companies.

Approval of this proposal would also cancel the Constellation program, which is building the Ares I rocket and Orion capsule, components intended to replace the soon-to-be phased-out shuttle fleet.

This decision is largely due to the fact that an additional \$3 billion per year would be needed to continue NASA's mission to send humans beyond low-Earth orbit. NASA has already spent \$9 billion on the program.

Experts also estimate that Constellation's goal of landing on the moon by 2020 is far-fetched, at best.

By adding \$6 billion over five years to NASA's budget, designated for helping private compa-

nies develop the necessary space-flight technologies, the measures would significantly cut costs and allow NASA to focus on other goals, such as manned missions to nearby asteroids or the moons of Mars.

However, many are worried about the economic ramifications of this measure, especially in states such as Texas and Florida, where space aeronautics is a major industry.

Mars Spirit rover buckles down for winter

The Mars Spirit rover, which got stuck in a sand pit nearly a year ago, is preparing to relinquish its duties as a mobile robot and begin a new chapter in its life as a fixed science station.

Although scientists have been working hard at freeing the rover, failures in several of the wheels have only allowed it to move a total of three inches.

The rover also has to worry about the impending Martian winter, which sends temperatures below what its electronics were designed to withstand.

Scientists will adjust the position of its solar panels and use that energy to keep the rover warm. However, the shorter days will likely drain the batteries and send it into a state of hibernation.

Despite the grim prognosis, the rover has already exceeded NASA's expect-

tations as it enters its seventh year of exploring the red planet. Spirit and its twin rover, Opportunity, were originally intended to last a mere three months.

As soon as Spirit settles into its final resting place, it will be able to take atmospheric and radio measurements, which could allow scientists to determine whether Mars's core is liquid or solid. It will also be able to study the soil composition and observe the movement of soil particles by the wind.

California places space junk under state protection

California's historical commission unanimously voted last week to designate several pieces of space trash as protected resources of the state. Items on the list include urine receptacles, space-sickness bags and empty food bags.

These artifacts were left on the

moon by the Apollo 11 mission astronauts, who were worried about the weight of their departing craft.

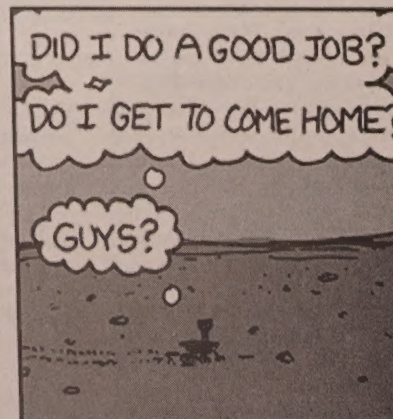
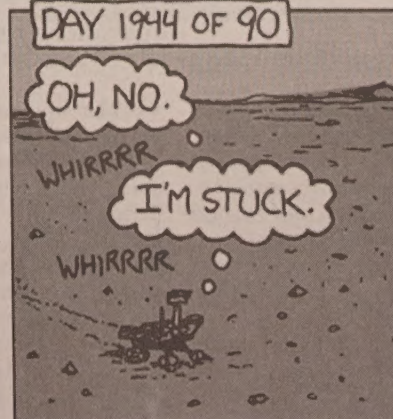
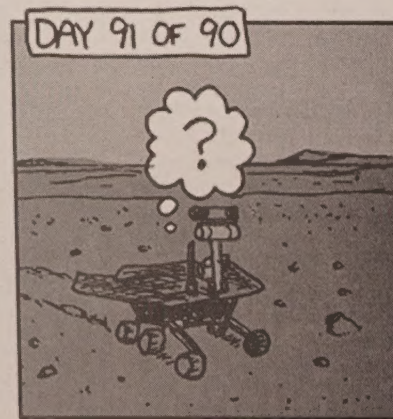
The commission explained their designation by saying that many California companies and citizens worked on the Apollo mission, and the fruits of their labor are of major historical value, regardless of the fact that they are far from being located on California soil.

Several other states are looking to make the same move in light of the possibility that other nations or private companies may set foot on the moon in the near future.

Although the personnel needed to protect the space artifacts is lacking, the commission hopes that this move may eventually lead to a lunar dump site being placed on the United Nations' World Heritage List. This list currently features Earth-based landmarks such as the Great Wall of China and the Greek Acropolis.

— All briefs by Ann Wang and Tiffany Ng

Briefs in Space



COURTESY OF WWW.XKCD.COM
The Spirit rover risks falling into a state of disrepair if it is unable to generate enough energy to keep warm.

SPORTS

W. basketball defeats #17 ranked Muhlenberg, win 4th in a row

By GERY BROWNHOLTZ
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the Hopkins women's basketball team hosted Centennial Conference rival Muhlenberg. The Blue Jays hoped to end a 10-game losing streak against the Mules, dating back to the 2005-06 season. After a hard-fought game, the Jays did prevail 73-66, extending their current winning streak to four games and bringing their record to 11-7 (9-5 in conference), while Muhlenberg falls to 14-3 (11-2 in conference).

The game Saturday did not begin well for Hopkins, as after eight minutes of play, the Jays trailed 18-10 to the Mules. However, Hopkins exploded for a 19-2 run, obtaining a nine-point lead with five minutes remaining in the first half.

Muhlenberg kept the game close over the closing minutes of the half, but a late three-pointer by Hopkins senior guard Britni Lonesome gave the Jays a comfortable 37-27 lead at halftime.



COURTESY OF WILL SHEPHERDSON
Lyndsay Burton pulls a move on the defender on Saturday night.

The beginning of the second half was tough for the Jays, as Muhlenberg poured in 10 quick points to erase the lead just three minutes into play.

This was extended into a 22-5 run, marked by a flurry of scoring from sophomore guard Alexandra Chili, giving the Mules a 7-point lead.

After scoring nine quick points and taking a 53-49 lead, the Jays matched the Mules' run with their own 22-5 run, jumping to a nine-point lead that would not fall.

At the end of two halves of play, the Jays were victorious, finishing with a 73-66 lead.

Hopkins was led in scoring by junior forward Lyndsay Burton, who contributed 13 points, while senior forward Monica Mitchell and senior guard Leslie Markun both added 10.

Burton also contributed nine rebounds, while junior forward Siobhan Callahan led the team with 13.

Also of note, Burton set the tone on defense with four steals and a block in her 30 minutes of play. The Jays shot an impressive 46 percent from the field and 30 percent from three-point range on the games.

For the Mules, the bulk of the scoring was handled by junior

guard Kelly McKeon, who had 32 points, and Alexandra Chili, who had 24. Other than these two players, Muhlenberg as a team, combined for only 10



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A Hopkins player drives for a two-pointer on Saturday.

points, as the Jays' defense held the Mules to just under 35 percent shooting for the game.

McKeon also set the tone for the Mules, leading the team with eight rebounds, including four offensive boards, while senior forward Alexis Bates added seven.

McKeon and senior guard Kaitlyn O'Malley also combined for seven steals on defense, causing turnovers that helped Muhlenberg stay in the game during two Hopkins runs.

With this big win over a nationally-ranked opponent, the Jays improve to 9-5 in Centennial Conference play and add another key victory to their tournament résumé.

They look to continue their four-game winning streak in the coming weeks of conference play, with the hope of maintaining this momentum into the Centennial Conference tournament.

The Jays play their next game at home on Feb. 6 against Gettysburg before going on a two-game road trip against Swarthmore and McDaniel.

Why the Saints Will Win

SAINTS FROM B12

will need to depend on their triple-threat running game, composed of Pierre Thomas, Reggie Bush and Mike Bell. Though the passing game will get both teams the majority of their points, the game will be won on the ground.

A balanced running game will not only be able to set up Brees with the deep ball threat, but it will most importantly allow New Orleans to control the clock. Controlling the clock will allow the Saints to keep the ball in their possession, ultimately keeping number 18 off of the field for as long as possible.

The only way the Saints will win is if they keep Peyton Manning on the sidelines, by running down the clock. This will prove to be beneficial for many reasons.

Not only will it give Peyton less time to paint his masterpiece, but will also give him less time to decipher the Saints 3-4. The Saints' running back corps will face a daunting task in running the ball against the Colts D, even with the potential absence of defensive end Dwight Freeney, who suffered an ankle injury in the final minutes against the Jets.

"I would love to see a shoot-



COURTESY OF NEWORLEANS SAINTS.COM
Pierre Thomas averages 5.4 yds per carry.

Super Bowl Showdown

out, I just want to see both offenses do what they do best, score!" exclaimed Chompy Borenstein, a NFL team-neutral fan.

I am sure that is the mindset around the nation, which is evident from Super Bowl XLIII's record setting ratings, which featured two dominant offensive teams. My prediction is that it will come down to overtime, where Drew Brees will march his Saints all the way down field, before Peyton Manning will have any chance at victory. So if there is anyone out there who still questions the Saints in this game I'm just curious, "Who Dat?"

Saints: 34 - Colts: 31

Why the Colts Will Win

COLTS FROM B12

abilities and QB IQ, have an explosive offense that is never really stopped and rarely slowed down. For instance, Peyton Manning has a quality zero-line and a great awareness on the field that has only led him to get sacked 10 times this season- the lowest number in the NFL. That says something about how effective the pass rush will be against the Colts. On top of that, they have proven themselves against some of the top defenses in the league, such as the Baltimore Ravens and the New York Jets.

"If [the Colts] can win the Super Bowl this year, I think Peyton Manning will have cemented his legacy as the greatest football player of all time," Jeff Berglund, a Colts fan, said.

"He already has the most MVP's, and two Super Bowl wins proves the first one was not a fluke. It will be



COURTESY OF JERSEYSANDGEAR.COM
Peyton Manning stares at WR Reggie Wayne.

COURTESY OF WWW.BEACHGOLD.NET
Which team will win the big trophy?

great to see the Colts win two of the four years I've been in college."

Now, many will argue that the Saints running game is going to be the key to their success with big names like Reggie Bush, Mike Bell and Pierre Thomas, but it is obvious what the Colts have done to rush happy teams, like the Ravens, in the past.

And the Colts' defense is better overall than that of the Vikings, whose defense obviously gave Drew Brees trouble just a week ago. While Dwight Freeney is injured, the Colts' defense has such depth that it will not affect their game too much.

While there is no question in my mind that the Saints are the best team in the NFC, the Colts have had to battle in the superior AFC and have yet again proven themselves to be the best in their conference.

Now it is just a matter of time until they prove that they are the best, period.

The whole country is looking forward to what is sure to be an instant classic in Miami, this Sunday. This will be a great game, but at the end, the best team will win, and that team is the Colts.

Colts: 31 - Saints: 21

Pickup basketball at Hopkins: More than just a sport

By JEFF ZHU
Sports Editor

The Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center is one of the most popular destinations on campus. Every day, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alum and other Hopkins affiliates make a stop at the Rec Center. Some go for running, cardio exercising, weight lifting, while others attend fitness classes, go rock climbing, swim and participate in the sports available at the gymnasium. Though there are many activities going on at once, pickup basketball on the courts is arguably one of the most popular activities among gym-goers.

Pickup basketball games can occur at any time of the day, but all the courts are usually packed at around 5-7 p.m. Games are generally five-on-five during prime game hours, though they may vary at other times. Smaller game are usually half-court games, while the larger ones are full-court.

Most of the people playing pickup basketball at the Rec Center are undergraduates (about 75 percent). Graduate students, staff and other affiliates comprise the rest. It is not unusual to see a range of ages within a game. Players often shoot around and practice before a real game assemblies. Team assignments for the games vary depending on the situation. Sometimes, friends or familiar players prefer to play in a team against others, while other times, the teams are assigned through free-throw shootouts or through size parity.

Basketball at the Rec Center is played no differently than it is anywhere else, as the game has a rigid set of rules. Games usually go up to 16 points, although sometimes they are shortened

to 13 if there are a lot of people waiting to get in a game. Treys are worth two points and everything inside the three-point arc is worth one point.

Fouls are called by the players on offense and the game is restarted with the ball being checked at the foul line. Sometimes, foul calls lead to intense outbursts by players on the court. Luckily, no serious fights have been reported over disputed calls in pickup basketball.

Injuries frequently occur on

"Many people who are experienced and competitive try to play full court. Everyone is expected to play 100 percent during full court and four-versus-four half-court games, other than that it's relaxed," junior Andrew Chen said.

Playing pickup basketball at the Rec Center has numerous advantages and is a very comprehensive workout. Full court games require constant motion, as the players are running back and forth on the court all the time. Players get an intensive cardio-

ketball is for working out everything you've got."

Basketball can also improve a person's intangible qualities. Playing a good game of basketball requires a team effort, and the competitive nature of the sport requires a player to be constantly focused and ready.

"The only improvement of my game is the level of confidence during the game, which is really important if you want to win," Chen said. "Not believing in yourself will be a burden on yourself and your team members. All of a sudden, everyone on your team starts missing shots. It's like a disease. Sports helped me become a more confident person. Team sports even now can help break the ice between people and encourage social interactions. They also improve your mental, physical and emotional well-being."

Recent graduate John Prendergass not only knows the benefits of playing basketball at Hopkins, but also sees it as a form of freedom from everyday life.

"Basketball is more than a sport here at Hopkins," Prendergass explained. "For some, it serves as an escape from the demands of our university. For others, it is simply a fun way to stay in shape and have fun doing so. So next time you are running around the track looking down on those players on the court, be envious. For they have discovered one of the secrets to surviving in this school, both mentally and physically."

Pickup basketball at the Rec Center is available year-round at the Rec Center when the gym is open. If you want to get in on a competitive five-on-five game against the best players on the court, show up at around 5-7 p.m.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A group of Hopkins undergraduates playing a full-court basketball game on Wednesday.

the court, as basketball is a very physical sport. Jammed fingers, sprained ankles, cuts, scrapes and bruises are common occurrences, and HERU has been called to deal with more serious injuries.

Since the players on the court come from a wide array of backgrounds, skill levels can vary greatly from game to game. Games on the middle court of the gym are usually the most competitive and are often comprised of more experienced players.

vascular workout while improving in-game basketball skills.

"I have improved my passing since being here," senior Jeff Berglund said. "It [pickup basketball] lets off a lot of stress, and there is good competition and cardio with 'b-ball.'"

"Basketball is a cardiovascular team or individual workout which will benefit all of your muscles and heart," Chen said. "Weight lifting is for muscles, treadmill is for the heart. Bas-

M. basketball snaps 4-game losing streak with win

M. BASKETBALL, FROM B12

and Junior Mike Henrici led the scoring, with a combined eight points between the two of them. However, McDaniel was able to answer the initial Jay run, responding with a 12-4 run of its own — bringing the score to 15-14 in favor of McDaniel. Senior Pat O'Connell nailed back to back jumpers, and gave the Jays the lead again, 18-15. Once again, McDaniel answered again with a 12-4 run.

With the score 29-22, Hopkins called a timeout to reorganize and cool down. And that is exactly what they did. Coming out of the timeout, sophomore Tim McCarthy drained a three from the top of the key.

After a couple of swapped baskets between the two teams, Hopkins was able to hold strong on defense, and senior Andrew Farber-Miller was able to secure a rebound, giving the Jays the final possession of the half with 35 seconds left to play.

O'Connell found the open sophomore Danny Gergen in the corner, and he was able to drain yet another three to make it a one-point game. McCarty then intercepted a McDaniel inbound pass and laid it off the glass at the buzzer to give Hopkins a 34-33 lead at the half.

The second half continued the shootout that began in the first. There were five ties and 18 lead changes throughout the second half, and neither team was able to gain more than a three-point lead until the Jays pushed the lead to seven in the remaining seconds.

Trailing 56-55 with 3:22 to play after a McDaniel layup, Alberici converted an old-fashioned three-point play to give the

Jays a two-point lead. Michael Jarboe hit a jumper just eight seconds later, McDaniel's last bucket of the game, to knot the game at 58-58.

Senior Pat O'Connell was then fouled and went to the line for two with 44 seconds to play. He hit the first free throw, giving Hopkins a one-point lead. O'Connell missed the second, but Alberici grabbed the rebound and the Jays called a time-out.

The Jays' endurance was evident late in the game, as Hopkins went six-of-six from the charity stripe, while McDaniel missed three field goals in the final 36 seconds, as Hopkins held on to win, 65-58.

Alberici finished six-of-eight from the field and five-of-five from the line for a team and career-high-tying 17 points. He also tied his career-high with five rebounds. Henrici chipped in 14 points and a game-high seven rebounds, while O'Connell (11) and McCarty (10) also finished in double digits. O'Connell also dished a game-high four assists, giving him 210 for his career and moving him into 13th place all-time in Hopkins history.

Hopkins shot 54.8 percent from the field for the game, including 58.3 percent in the first half. McDaniel finished at a 48.9 percent clip after shooting 50.0 percent in the first half. It is the first time the Jays have shot better than 50.0 percent for the game since shooting 58.3 percent against Pitt-Bradford on Dec. 29, 2009.

The win was Hopkins' 75th in the series with McDaniel, which dates back to Jan. 20, 1931.

SPORTS

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
PAULA OSBORN & STEVE TOBOCHNIK — TRACK

Osborn and Tobochnik: Masters of the track

By BRETT SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

After three weeks of racing, two of Hopkins' top track runners, Paula Osborn and Steve Tobochnik, were awarded Athletes of the Week by *The News-Letter*. Both competed in the McElligott Invitational at Haverford College over the weekend and excelled in their events. Tobochnik broke the school record in the 3,000 meter run, while Osborn won one event and finished second in another.

Osborn, a fifth-year senior captain, returned to Hopkins in Jan. 2009 to complete her Spanish major. She is allowed to compete this year, since she missed her freshman indoor track season due to injury. Osborn was very happy to return to the team after a strong second place finish at conferences last year.

"I'm really happy to be back with the team and excited to be running track again," Osborn said. "Our end goal is to win conferences and we definitely have the depth to do it this year."

On Saturday, Osborn led the Johns Hopkins Women's indoor track team to a very strong performance at Haverford's McElligott Invitational. She led the 4x200 meter relay to a first place win, while also winning the 200-meter dash, placing second in the 55 meter dash and finishing sixth in the long jump. Os-

born's times give her the fastest 200-meter time in the conference, and the third-fastest 55-meter time, edging out her rival, Christina Neilson of Haverford, for both.

Osborn, a holder of almost every women's indoor track record (seven in all), says she looks up to senior captain Laura Paulsen for inspiration. Paulsen broke the Centennial Conference record in the indoor 5,000 meters with her second-place showing at the Penn State National Open on Friday. She covered the distance in 17:12.30, breaking the old standard of 17:16.46 set last season by Ursinus' Christa Johnson.

"Laura is really dedicated and focused in every race and at every workout," Osborn said. "She has really high goals for herself and it inspires me to do my best for the team."

After Osborn completes her Spanish degree, she will be heading off to the Peace Corps in Ukraine. She will be focusing most of her time on youth development in high schools and teaching kids basic life skills. Osborn's concentration will also include after-school activities, possibly even coaching track. The Peace Corps program will last for 27 months in total.

Not only did the Hopkins' women's track team have a strong showing at the McElligott Invitational, but the men's team did as well. Junior Steve Tobo-

chnik was the men's cross country team's number one runner during the fall. He individually qualified for DIII Nationals and placed 133rd at the NCAA Championships.

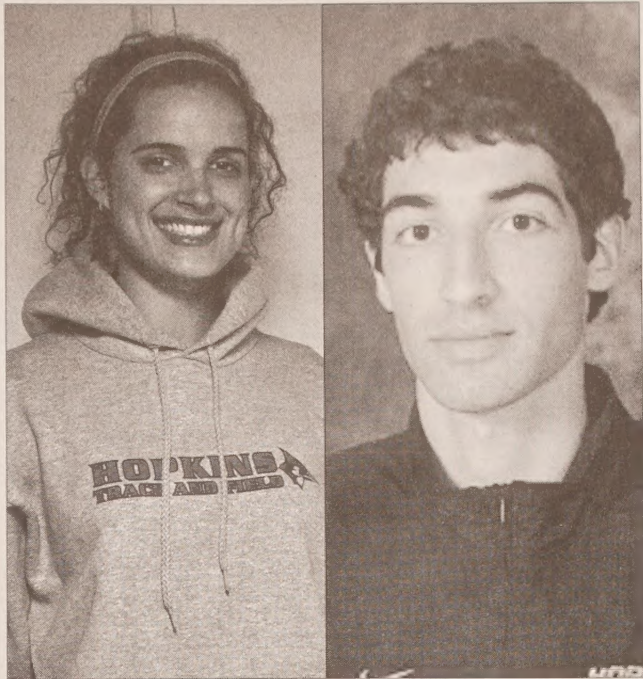
Tobochnik credits the coaches with most of his success that he has had at Hopkins and attributes his improvement to the program in place.

"The coaches at Hopkins have been extremely helpful in my development as a runner," he said. "Most importantly, they interact very personally with all the athletes and are interested in helping you in any way possible. The coaches have helped find competitive meets that challenge each individual on the team to improve by racing some of the top athletes in any given event."

Tobochnik has looked up to

senior captain David Sigmon through parts of the season. Although they disagree on how to run on easy days, he appreciates Sigmon's passion for the sport.

"Sigmon has always believed in running tough everyday," Tobochnik said. "At times I may disagree, but this attitude is one



ELAINE YU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR AND COURTESY OF STEVE TOBOCHNIK
Paula Osborn (Left) and Steve Tobochnik (Right) are honored as "Athletes of the Week."

that I ultimately respect, and he has helped push me on a number of workouts."

Off the track, Tobochnik is a behavioral biology major, and he plans on attending medical school. He spends most of his free time doing research work and applying for medical school. Tobochnik also enjoys hanging out with his housemates and playing video games.

"I was really happy with my race on Saturday, and I am excited for Conferences. I think it is realistic for our team to shoot for a top-three finish," he said. "We have a lot of talent and with a good work ethic, this is entirely possible."

Both Tobochnik and Osborn will be racing in Boston on Valentine's Day weekend in two weeks.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hopkins' swimmer Daniela Villegas won the 100 Back against Washington and Lee.

M. & W. swimming
win three out of four

Hopkins swimming gives solid performance

FROM SWIM, PAGE B12
third in the 200 medley relay. Freshman Cathy Howard placed third with a time of 10:56.29 in the 1000 free, an event in which the Jays took third through sixth.

Rogers finished third in the 200 free with a season-best time of 1:57.82, while teammates freshman Daniela Villegas and sophomore Lindsey Kent finished third and fourth in the 100 back.

Tsay took third place in the 100 breast as her time of 1:07.52 was good enough for an NCAA B qualifying time. The Jays took fifth through seventh in the 200 fly, and were led by junior Meagan Heslin and her time of 2:14.10.

Rogers later added another third place finish in the 100 free, finishing in 54.06. Culver placed fourth in the 200 back in 2:12.05, while Tsay finished second in the 200 breast in 2:28.24. The 500 free saw Howard, Culver and Heslin take second through fourth place. The Jays ended up falling to the Tigers 158-95.

On Saturday, both teams headed to Washington and Lee in search of a win in the last dual-meet of both their seasons. Neither team was let down as the Jays dominated on both the men's and women's sides.

The men kicked off the meet with a win in the 200 medley relay, as the team of Thomas, Mahoney, Schmidt and Bulakul finished in a time of 1:36.25.

The Jays then picked up 16 points as Morlock, and freshmen Phillip Hall and Alec

Contag swept the top three spots in the 1000 free. The 200 free saw the Jays finish in first, third and fifth, with Schmidt taking the win in 1:45.43.

In the 100 back, Thomas hit an NCAA B qualifying time of 52.05 as he won the event. In the 200 fly, Murphy and Gisriel finished 2-3 with times of 2:00.39 and 2:00.90, respectively.

Mahoney claimed the top spot in the 100 free, finishing in 47.76, while Thomas went on to win the 200 back in 1:54.56.

Nam, Morlock and Schmidt rounded out the day's first place finishers as they won the 200 breast (2:11.91), 500 free (4:51.75), and 100 fly (52.01), respectively. At the end of the day, the Jays won 11 events and took home the overall win, 154.5-107.5.

The women were just as successful as the men, as they turned in 12 first-place finishes.

The team of Kent, Tsay, sophomore Kristine Ghemigian and Rogers finished in 1:52.73 to take first in the 200 medley relay, while Howard won the 1000 free in 10:56.76.

The Jays then scored 16 points in the 200 free, as freshman Kristen Ferriero, Ghemigian, and Culver finished 1-2-3.

Villegas went on to win the 100 back in 1:01.49, while Tsay won the 100 breast in 1:06.85, once again hitting the NCAA B qualifying time.

Heslin continued the successes in the pool as she won the 200 fly in 2:15.28, while Rogers earned the victory in the 50 free (24.94).

The Jays added another sweep, as Gardner, Ferriero, and Villegas claimed the top three spots in the 100 free.

Culver took first in the 200 back (2:12.96), while Tsay completed her sweep of the breast-stroke events as she won the 200 breast in 2:28.76.

Howard and Rogers rounded out the first place finishers, as they won the 500 free (5:21.21) and 100 fly (1:01.26), respectively. The Jays won the meet with a final score of 161-95.

The men enter the championship portion of their season with a 5-4 record, while the women now stand at 4-6.

Both teams will now spend the upcoming two and a half weeks preparing for the upcoming Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championship, scheduled for Feb. 17 to 20 in Charlotte, NC.

"The team is certainly working hard in practice to reach our goal to win Conferences and we are really getting excited about it as the Conference meet is just a few weeks away," Morlock said.

"We all believe in the training that Coach Kennedy gives us and that will be crucial in our overall success at Conferences."

UPCOMING
EVENTS

2/17 - Bluegrass Mountain Conference Champ.

3/13 - NCAA DIII Champ.

VITAL
STATISTICS

Year: Osborn - Senior
Tobochnik - Junior

Major: Osborn - Psychology, Spanish
Tobochnik - Behavioral Bio

Hopkins Highlights:

Osborn - Received All-American honors in 2009. Won Centennial Conference Athlete of the Week honors in Feb. 2009.

Tobochnik - Received first-team All-Conference Honors in cross-country in 2009. Competed in the men's championship race at the 2009 Cross-Country Nationals.

Men and Women's track teams break records at the McElligott Invitational

By CHIP HARSH
Staff Writer

At the McElligott Invitational last weekend, the Men's and Women's Track and Field teams were represented well, with multiple record-breaking performances.

The track and field team members rely on each other for support around every turn and before every jump. Laura Paulsen, who travelled to State College, Pa., with only her coach Bobby van Allen, said that "it was sad being away from [her] teammates and not having them to cheer [her] on or watch them also have great races, throws and jumps."

As a whole, the competitors representing Hopkins did have great races, throws and jumps as the season crossed the midway point.

Laura Paulsen, who competed independently in the 5K run at Penn State's National Open, broke the Centennial Confer-

ence record and held the top spot in the Division III nation for one glorious day. Paulsen ran a 17:12 on the indoor track to break Christina Johnson's (Ursinus) record from a year ago.

For the women's team, in Haverford, Pa., freshman Alana Merkow led the way by breaking the school's shot put record. Her coaches recognized her as "Athlete of the Meet," for her 12.24 meter heave, on her final toss.

Steve Tobochnik placed fourth of 37 in his 3,000-meter run with a final time of 8:44, breaking a six-year standing school record by two seconds. Tobochnik proved himself able to compete with some of the best runners in the Mid-Atlantic region by keeping with the lead pack from start to finish.

"I knew the pace throughout most of the race was faster than the previous record pace," Tobochnik said. "So I sort of assumed that I was probably under it, but I did not know for sure. It was a good time and I am satisfied with it, though it is always possible to run faster. Most likely I will not be running the 3K again this season, because it is not an event at Nationals. Instead, I will focus on qualifying for nationals in the 5K instead."

"As a team, we have a lot of talent and hopefully as we get everything together in preparation for Conferences, we will have many more impressive performances and personal records,"

Tobochnik added.

The McElligott Invitational is not a team scored competition, but Hopkins placed first in the 4x200 meter relay. Amelia Valle-nilla, Leah Sibener, Tara Berglund and Paula Osborn had the fastest time of the meet with 1:49.18.

Osborn also placed first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.13. She also placed second in the 55-meter dash and sixth in the long jump.

Matt Stankiewicz led Hopkins' men's long jump with a sixth place finish with a jump just under six meters.

Two triple jumpers placed in the top ten: Alexa Tzaferos (seventh) and Tracey Vill (eighth).

For the men's 55-meter dash, Hopkins took the fifth, sixth and seventh finishes: Chris Tait, John Bartolotta and Traci Dutton.

The Men's 4x400 meter relay team placed second and the 4x200 meter team placed third.

Jay pole vaulters showed well. The women's team had three of the top four finishers.

Emily Kashka won with a jump of 9 feet, 5 inches and Cherry Yeung placed third (8 feet-11.75 feet) and Tracey Vill placed fourth, just 5.75 inches below Yeung. Tricia Decker also jumped 2.44 meters.

Kurt Scane-meo placed fourth on the men's side of the track with a pole vault bar 12 feet-11.75 feet high. Kevin Keenahan placed eighth with a twelve foot vault.

Five of Hopkins high jumpers

"As a team, we have a lot of talent and hopefully as we get everything together in preparation for Conferences."

—STEVE TOBOCHNIK-
MEN'S TRACK



COURTESY OF LEE OUYANG
The men's track team competing at the McElligott Invitational over the weekend.

finished in the top five: Kristen Spera (second, 1.42 meters), Emily Kashka (fourth) and Stephanie Amalfe (fifth). For the Men,

Lanre Adekola jumped 1.83 meters high to place fourth. Matt Stankiewicz was right behind him with a 1.78-meter high jump.

Two Hopkins shot putters had over 40-foot tosses. Ryan Lino had the longest throw of the invitational:

46 foot, 8.25 inches. Luke Sand threw his heavy ball 42 foot, 4.75 inches, and placed sixth.

For the one mile run, Liz Provost finished third, followed

close behind by Mary O'Grady and Anne Monagle.

In her own words, Paulsen, "was leading for the first mile, which is always more difficult than letting someone else lead and set the pace." After being passed by a pair of Penn State runners around the 3K mark, Paulsen made a late break to finish in a decisive second place.

You can watch Paulsen's thrilling race on the Hopkins Sports website.

"I definitely know I can run faster," senior said.

Next weekend, Paulsen plans to travel to New York City for the New Balance Invitational — with the sole support of Coach Bobby van Allen — to compete in the open mile to qualify for Nationals.

The next Track and Field competition is the Widener Invitational, scheduled for Feb. 5 in Chester, Pa.



COURTESY OF LEE OUYANG

Laura Paulsen competed at the Penn State National Open.

SPORTS

THIS DAY IN SPORTS

February 4, 1969 - John Madden is named head coach of the NFL's Oakland Raiders.

February 4, 1971 - Baseball announces a special hall of fame wing for African Americans.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY

M. Lacrosse v. Harvard, 11am (Scrimmage)

Super Bowl XLIV: The battle for glory

The New Orleans Saints will march to victory

Why the Colts will win the big game

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

With enough offensive firepower to compete with Mike "The Situation's" arsenal of "grenades", the New Orleans Saints look to enter their biggest game in franchise history. While answering most of the questions from haters and doubters around the NFL community, one question still remains, "Where did all these weapons come from?"

If even the most canny football correspondents had a time machine and looked at the Saint's current roster as of 2008, "Who Dat?" is a question that wouldn't be far off. Granted, superstars Jeremy Shockey and Reggie Bush come as advertised. But let us go down the list: Mike Bell (Who Dat?), Pierre Thomas (Who Dat?), Mr. Seventh-round draft pick Marquest Colston (Who Dat?), Robert Meachem (Who Dat?).

Perhaps the most surprising of them all, Drew Brees is coming off a potential career-ending surgery three years back and was written off by the bottom-feeding teams of the NFL. Brees came back, only to break a mass of records, while leading one of the most prolific offensive teams in NFL history (Who DaThought?).

While each player brings a different skill set to the table with exceptional talent, the team is reminiscent of the New England Patriots of the mid-2000's. Just being around players with chemistry and an upper caliber makes each individual better at what he does.

There are two components that are key for the Saints' success come Sunday: the 3-4 defense and the triple-threat running game. The 3-4 defense, which has proven to be Peyton Manning's kryptonite in past years, will be crucial for the Saints, if they have any chance in stopping Super-

man (Manning). It was evident that Manning was not himself in the first half against the Jets' 3-4 defense, which, keep in mind, is still better than most QBs in the NFL.

However, it is no surprise that

By MARCEL DUARTE
Sports Editor

Nobody would have put up much of an argument if they were told, back in September, that the Colts would be playing in the Su-

per Bowl Sunday. While the Saints defense is truly one of the best in the league, Peyton Manning has made quality NFL-caliber defenses look like JV high school squads time and time again. Simply his presence changes the game. There is no doubt that the New Orleans "D" is no easy opponent for any quarterback, even Manning. With big names such as Jonathan Vilma and Tracy Porter, the defense makes big plays happen, which often get them big wins. Just last week, against the Minnesota Vikings, they were completely outplayed on offense, but won because of the turnovers they took

advantage of. They produced only 257 yards compared to the 475 that Brett Favre and his Vikings racked up. But the Saints came out on top, seeing as the Vikings just could not hold on to the ball, and after countless fumbles, they lost in overtime. Had the Vikings been able to carry the ball, without looking like they dumped their hands in a barrel of oil, I would be writing this article about how the Colts would outplay the Vikings in the Super Bowl. But the Saints escaped and won the NFC title and here we are.

The Colts, with a leader comparable to Brett Favre in his

SEE COLTS, PAGE B10



BRIAN SHELL/GRAPHICS STAFF

Peyton Manning and Drew Brees face off in the Super Bowl. Secondaries, be warned, there will be a lot of offense.

Peyton got better as the game progressed, just as he seems to get better as each season progresses. Anchored by former Miami Hurricane standout, linebacker Jonathon Vilma, the Saints 3-4 will attempt to change up looks throughout the game. Shutting down Peyton Manning is out of the question, so they will look to shut him out long enough for the Saints' offense to take hold. Which leads to the next key to victory: securing a strong running game.

Both Manning and Brees will take control of the game, no surprises there. But if the Saints want to win, they

SEE SAINTS, PAGE B10

per Bowl this year. But most would not believe that they would be playing the New Orleans Saints. That is because the Saints came out of nowhere this year to play the best season in franchise history. But that "Cinderella Season" is going to come to an abrupt end on Sunday when Peyton Manning tears apart a defense that has never faced a quarterback of his caliber.

The entire country has watched in awe this year as Drew Brees and his Saints have played some remarkable football. I must admit, there were a lot of times when I wanted the Saints to win because of their great chemistry, and plus I liked the fact that they

Swimming has success in weekend events

By MIKE YUAN
Staff Writer

The men's and women's swimming teams were busy at work this past weekend. Both teams competed up the road against Towson on Friday, and traveled to face Washington and Lee on Saturday.

The men were able to win both meets, while the women were victorious at Washington and Lee, but fell short at Towson.

"We were looking to swim two meets back-to-back to prepare us for the conference championships," George Kennedy, head coach of both the men and women, said. "By swimming Friday and Saturday we simulate the tough nature of swimming back-to-back days. At the conference meet we swim 3 to 4 days in a row."

Friday afternoon's action was a nail-biter on the men's side. Hopkins jumped out to a great start in the 200 medley relay, as the team of senior John Thomas, sophomore Tim Nam, freshman Nick Schmidt and senior Neil Mahoney finished in first place with a time of 1:36.30. The Jays also placed third in the event, as the relay team of sophomore Preston Youngdahl, senior Chris Razavi, sophomore Eddy Zandee and senior Chris Whelan finished in a time of 1:38.40, just .18 seconds behind the second place Towson team.

In the 1000 free, freshman Kevin Morlock finished with the second fastest time, as he clocked in at 9:50.01. The 200 free saw sophomore Stephen Niemiec and freshman Carter Gisriel finish first and third, with times of 1:44.88 and 1:45.60, respectively. The results were season-bests for all three individuals.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A Hopkins' swimmer shown competing in a freestyle event against Towson.

In the 100 back, Thomas took first with a time of 51.53, while freshman Dylan Coggin finished in third in 54.68. Senior Teddy Bulakul placed fourth in the event with a 55.05. In the 100 breast, Mahoney and Razavi finished 2-3, with times of 1:00.54 (a career best) and 1:01.63. The 200 Fly saw Schmidt take second in 1:57.10, while freshman Connor Murphy placed fourth in 2:00.57.

After sweeping the top three spots in the 200 IM, Hopkins finished first and third in the 400 free relay, earning the team 13 points and the win. The team of Whelan, Bulakul, Mahoney and Thomas finished in 3:09.60 to give the Jays a 132-130 victory.

"We knew that Towson had a strong women's team, so we were looking to improve on our in-season times since this was our last weekend to race before our conference meet in February" sophomore Elizabeth Rogers said.

The women's team also saw many top three finishes. The team of sophomores Marga-

ret Spach, Annie Tsay, Eleanor Gardner and Rogers placed

SEE SWIM, PAGE B11



COURTESY OF WILL SHEPHERDSON

Sophomore Tim McCarty goes in for an open shot against Ursinus on Saturday night.

Men's basketball goes 1-1, playoffs in reach

By SHANT KESKINYAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's basketball team finished off a fantastic weekend of play on Monday night with a solid win over Centennial Conference rival McDaniel.

The Jays also played Ursinus on Saturday but lost a very close game due to a late fourth quarter rally.

"The team played great in both of our games. Everyone stepped up on both the offensive and defensive sides. Unfortunately, on Saturday, Ursinus was able to hit free throws when it counted," senior Captain Matt Dapas said. "We stuck with them all game and definitely were not hanging our heads. On Monday, we went into our game with determination . . . and it showed. We were clicking on all cylinders. We played great offense, crashed the boards on defense, and most importantly hit free throws when we needed to. I am very proud of our guys".

This past Saturday, the Jays faced off against Ursinus in the Goldfarb gym. Ursinus jumped out to a 13-4 lead as five different Bears got in the scoring column.

Sophomore Sean O'Connor finally got things going for Hopkins, draining a three-pointer to fuel an 11-4 run as the Jays made it a 17-15 game midway through the first half. The Bears responded, pushing their lead back to seven before the Jays began chipping away again.

Trailing 24-17 with 6:22 to play in the half, freshman Mike Rhoads hit a three-pointer to cut the deficit to four. Junior John Alberici and senior Pat O'Connell followed with a pair of buckets and it was a tie game.

After a trio of baskets by Alberici, and strong free throw shooting from Keith Page, the Jays went into the locker room

with a 32-30 lead at the half.

The Jays got off to a hot start in the second half as Rhoads opened the scoring with his second bucket from downtown to extend Hopkins' lead to five. Ursinus responded with back-to-back triples to trim it to a one-point game.

It went back and forth from there, as the Jays could not extend their lead to more than four. After trading bucket after bucket, the Jays led 61-60 with 3:51 on the clock.

However, solid free throw shooting from Ursinus was able to clinch the game for the Bears, as they went 10-of-12 from the line in the final 3 minutes of play, earning them the win, 74-66.

Alberici finished with a season-high 14 points on 5-of-6 shooting from the floor. Henrici also punched up 14 points as the pair paced the Jays. Rhoads finished with 10 points and a pair of steals.

Hopkins shot 42.4 percent from the floor for the day and forced 19 Ursinus turnovers, compared to just 11 for the Jays. The Bears however, shot 62.5 percent for the game and won the rebounding battle, 30-27.

Hopkins came into Monday night's game at the Goldfarb Gymnasium with a four-game losing streak lurking above their heads. After suffering a heart wrenching defeat on Saturday

night, the men were determined to turn things around. And that is exactly what they did. Junior John Alberici led the Jay charge, finishing with a career-high 17 points. A wonderful supporting cast also accompanied him, as four other players finished in double-digits.

From the very start of the game, it was evident that the men were focused. Hopkins jumped out to a 10-3 lead fewer than five minutes into game play. Alberici

SEE M. BASKETBALL, PAGE B10

Final	
McDaniel	58
Hopkins	65

Final	
Ursinus	74
Hopkins	66

INSIDE Athletes of the Week: Paula Osborn Steve Tobochnik

One is a senior planning to join the Peace Corps in March. The other is a junior with plans for med school. Both are runners with high expectations. **Page B11**

Track and Field: Multiple records broken

Track and field competed at the McElligott Invitational over the weekend with great results. Laura Paulsen flew solo at the National Open. **Page B11**

W. Basketball: Big Wins on the Court for the Lady Jays

The Blue Jays defeated 17th-ranked Muhlenberg in a hard fought battle this weekend. A four-game winning streak has been established. **Page B10**

Rec Center Bball: Pickup basketball

Casual basketball games at the Rec Center are much more than just games. Read the thoughts of some Hopkins' undergrads and their feelings about basketball at the Rec Center. **Page B10**

BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

M. BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 27:
Hopkins 50
F & M 53

Saturday, January 30:
Hopkins 66
Ursinus 74

Monday, February 1:
Hopkins 65
McDaniel 58

W. BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 27:
Hopkins 58
F & M 54

Saturday, January 30:
Hopkins 73
Muhlenberg 66

Monday, February 1:
Hopkins 62
Gettysburg 66

SWIMMING

Friday, January 29:
Hopkins (Men) 132
Towson 130

Hopkins (Women) 95
Towson 158

Saturday, January 30:
Hopkins (Men) 155
Wash. & Lee 108

Hopkins (Women) 161
Wash. & Lee 95